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L E T T E R S

WRITTEN IN

H O L L A N D,

IN THE MONTHS OF

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1787,

BY

THOMAS BOWDLER, Esq. F.R.S. AND S.A.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS,

AND OTHER PAPERS,

RELATING TO THE JOURNEY

OF THE

PRINCESS OF ORANGE,

ON THE 28th OF JUNE, 1787.

L O N D O N:

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M.DCC.LXXXVIII.

LETTER

HOLLAND

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PRINCESS OF ORANGE

TO
HANS MAURICE,
COUNT DE BRUHL,
ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY
FROM
HIS SERENE HIGHNESS
THE
ELECTOR OF SAXONY
TO THE
COURT OF GREAT BRITAIN,
KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE,
&c. &c. &c.

THIS WORK
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY
HIS SINCERE FRIEND,
AND
OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



Tuæ erga me Benevolentia, nunquam non reminiscar.

TO
HANS-MAXIMILIAN
COUNT DE BRUNN,
INVOLVED EXTRAORDINARY

FROM
HIS EXCELLENCY
THE
SELECTOR OF SAXONY

TO THE
RIGHT OF THE
COUNT OF THE WHITE EAGLE

THIS WORK
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
HIS SINCERE FRIEND,

AND
OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR

L E T T E R I.

DEAR SIR,

Brussels, Sept. 16, 1787

YOU flatter me exceedingly by saying that you wish to hear frequently from me during the tour which I propose to make in the province of Holland. I fear it will not be in my power to send you such accounts of the state of that Country, as you will think satisfactory. Permit me however to detain you a little, with telling you what my views are in undertaking this journey, and what you may expect from my correspondence.

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respondence. You will then be able to judge, whether it is worth while to be troubled with it, or not ; and I will proceed, or desist, according to your orders.

Being disappointed, as you know, in my intention of visiting Dresden and Vienna, I thought I could not possibly employ my leisure in a better manner, than in being an eye-witness to the interesting scenes which are going on in the Low Countries. I accordingly came here about ten days ago, and should be well pleased to continue longer in this place, if I did not feel more desirous of acquiring the best information, with regard to what is likely to happen in a neighbouring country. Such information, I am certain, can only be obtained by being present at the interesting moment. Last night I received a copy of the Duke of Brunswick's Manifesto, by which it appears, that the States of Holland have finally refused to give the King of Prussia the satisfaction he demands, for the insult offered to his Sister. I imagine
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the Prussian troops are at this moment on the territory of the Republic, and I shall lose no time in going to the scene of action. My route will be determined by the events which take place in Holland. The great object of my journey is to obtain as perfect a knowledge as possible of what happens in that country, and a general idea of the sentiments of its inhabitants. Such being my views, you must not be surpris'd, if I employ no part of my time in looking at Pictures or at Churches. The Organ at Harlem, and the Stadthouse at Amsterdam, will be equally neglected in my letters ; and you must apply to a different Correspondent, if you wish for a description of a Dutch garden, or the method of travelling in a Treck-schuyte. These, however, are objects in which you interest yourself as little as I do ; but when I attempt to speak of things of a different kind, allow me to ask, What can you expect from me ? A person unacquainted with tactics, is to give an account of military operations ; and one unconnected

with Statesmen, is to write of political events. This being the case, I need not claim your indulgence with regard to the imperfections that you will find in my letters.

Truth and accuracy are the recommendations, by which a person thus situated, should endeavour to make amends for so great defects. With regard to these, I can venture to assure you, that I will spare no pains; but I am fully sensible of the difficulty of my undertaking. The story of the Second Volume of Sir Walter Raleigh's History is always present to my recollection. I am perfectly aware, that I shall converse with persons whose minds are heated by strong passions, and whose judgements are warped by yet stronger prejudices. When I reflect how difficult it was, in June 1780, to obtain true information at the West End of London, with regard to what was going on in the City; I cannot but be sensible of the diffidence with which I must listen, at

the Hague, to accounts of transactions at Leyden.

I intend therefore to confine myself as much as possible to those circumstances, of the truth of which I am certain, from the evidence of my own senses. This I shall do, though I know it is attended with one inconvenience; I mean, that it leads too much to Egotism. Wherever I mention having received information from good authority, you may be sure that it is from such evidence as would secure my verdict in a Court of Justice. On other occasions I shall mention my own doubts, if I have any; and shall, as much as possible, avoid filling my letters with stories, which probably are little better than fables.

In Holland I shall have opportunities of conversing with persons on both sides of the question, with whom I was acquainted when I formerly visited that country,

or to whom I have now procured good introductions. With these intentions, and with these means of obtaining information, I design to-morrow evening to set out for Breda.



LETTER

L E T T E R II.

DEAR SIR, Gorcum, Sept. 18, 1787.

I LEFT Bruffels yesterday afternoon, and this morning I arrived at Breda soon after the gates were opened. Not long before I entered the town, an account was received that Utrecht had been abandoned by the Patriots, and that Gorcum had surrendered to the Prussian Forces.

I found the streets filled with people, impatient to learn the particulars of what had happened. A considerable number of fugitives were just arrived, most of whom were going towards Antwerp. I conversed a good deal with one of them, who was a person of some consequence, just come from Gorcum. This person informed

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me,

me, that the Town was bombarded in a dreadful manner; that it was almost destroyed; that the Prussians had plundered it; and that it would by no means be adviseable to go there. Such was the account of one who was just arrived from the scene of action, and had been an eye-witness of what he related.

As soon as I could procure horses, which, from the numbers that were going to the South, it was not easy to do, I continued my journey. As you are acquainted with the condition of the Dikes, in this part of Holland, in wet weather, you will not be surpris'd at my saying, that I employed great part of the day in travelling from Breda to this place.

I came, however, with as much expedition as the state of the roads would admit; but the heavy rains which had fallen during the last two days had made them so deep, that it was impossible for my carriage to advance
above

above three miles an hour. The same circumstance must undoubtedly have rendered the march of the Prussian army extremely difficult; but such difficulties, I am told, serve only to excite the General and his troops to greater exertions.

My journey this day was, in some respects very curious. I find that, in this part of Holland, the Stadtholder has a great many friends, and the common people are in general well-wishers to his cause. In most of the villages through which I passed, I saw every body busily employed, in fixing orange flags on the steeples of the churches, and orange-coloured ornaments both on their houses and persons. In some places however, the scene was very different; I passed through one village, where the countenances of all the inhabitants, expressed the utmost terror and disappointment. They flocked about my carriage, to know if I could give them any news of the approach of the French army; and upon my answering that they had
nothing

nothing to expect from that quarter, they returned dejected to their houses.

About seven o'clock I arrived at Gorcum ; and I found this town, which I had heard was burnt, plundered, and destroyed ; illuminated from one end to the other. The streets are full of people, singing ballads in praise of the Prince of Orange ; and every thing has the appearance of a place delivered from a siege, rather than a town taken by the enemy. As soon as I arrived, I waited on the Governor ; who informed me, that the Duke of Brunswick is at Tienhoven, about fourteen miles from Gorcum. As I found it would be impossible to wait on his Highness this evening, I passed some time with the Commandant. He told me, that the Patriots fired at the officer who summoned the place, but that only five shells were thrown, and only eleven cannon discharged, before the town surrendered. One of the shells set fire to a house and destroyed it ; a second slightly damaged another house ; and a third blew up a windmill. No person was either
killed

killed or wounded, nor was any part of the town pillaged by the foldiers. This was the whole of the mifchief; and this, as I have told you, was magnified into a ftory of the city being plundered and deftroyed.

P. S. The fecond fhell that was thrown, having fet fire to a houfe in Gorcum, Mr. Capelle, the Governor of the place, was compelled by the inhabitants, to hang out a white flag. He then propofed to capitulate; but was obliged to furrender at difcretion. Gorcum being thus at the mercy of the Duke of Brunfwick, his Highnefs gave an early proof of the ufe which he intended to make of his power, by taking care, that neither the perfons nor property of the inhabitants fhould be injured by the Pruffian foldiers,



LETTER

L E T T E R III.

DEAR SIR,

Meerkirk, Sept. 19, 1787.

THE Commanding Officer at Gorcum having given me an order to have the gates opened whenever I pleased, I set out on horseback before day-light, and arrived at the head quarters of the Duke of Brunswick about seven o'clock.

Were I to name the place where an example might be seen of the meaning of the word *Address*, I should immediately mention Tienhoven. This is all that I can say to you at present; to-morrow I shall probably have more to write upon this subject. In the mean time I shall detain you with one of a different kind. I came back from Tienhoven to Meerkirk, in order to send a letter to Brussels. This I have done; but before I
return

return to the head quarters, I wish to give you an account of the appearance of this place.

I mentioned in my last letter the public rejoicings at Gorcum. Here I find the same marks of contentment, carried to a still greater height: I find myself furrounded by people almost wild with joy. Soon after I got to the little inn where I am now writing, many of the inhabitants of the village came to me, presenting me with orange ribbons, and offering to do me any service in their power. I was so little conscious of being entitled to their services, that I could hardly imagine to what cause this could be owing. At last I discovered that my guide had told them, I was an English gentleman, who had been very early in the morning with the Duke of Brunswick, and was going back to dine with his Highness. This has been sufficient to recommend me to all the inhabitants of Meerkirk.

Were

Were I to allow myself to form a judgement of Holland from the appearance of Gorcum and this place, I should imagine that few Princes were more beloved than the Stadtholder. When I go further to the Westward, I suppose I shall view a very different picture. After enjoying this scene a good while, and I know no greater enjoyment than seeing multitudes made happy ; I ordered horses to be got ready, and am now preparing to return to Tienhoven.

P. S. It was with the greatest difficulty that I was able to persuade the people at Meerkirk, to allow me to pay for my breakfast or my horses : they wished to supply me *gratis* with every thing I wanted.

* I hope that in what I have said in this and some other letters, I shall not be supposed to mean any thing more than to describe the appearance of the populace. A traveller in passing through a country cannot form a judgement of persons of a different class.

LETTER

L E T T E R IV.

DEAR SIR,

Tienhoven, Sept. 20, 1787.

YOU must not expect that I should give you a foldier's description of the Prussian army. I attempt nothing of that kind, but shall confine myself to such subjects, as plain common sense will enable any person to understand, and describe.

I returned from Meerkirk to Tienhoven about one o'clock. The greatest part of the Prussian troops were in the village of Ameiden, at a small distance from the head quarters of the Duke. His Highness was gone to Schoonhoven, where he had ordered a bridge of pontons to be thrown across the river Leck. I amused myself very well with viewing an
army,

army, in the success of which I consider the interest of my own country, as very essentially concerned. Nothing surprised me more, than the extreme civility with which I was treated by every person whom I spoke to. I scarcely imagined that, in a Prussian army, such attention would have been paid to one who was not recommended by wearing an uniform.

All was joy and triumph among the troops. Hitherto their success had exceeded their utmost expectations. Hardly an hour passed, without an express arriving, with the news of some place that had surrendered to a Prussian detachment, or some town in which a revolution had been effected in favour of the Stadtholder. The Duke returned from Schoonhoven about four o'clock; when, just as he was going to dinner, an officer arrived, who brought an account that the Orange Flag was already flying at the Hague; that the States of Holland had resolved to restore the Prince to all the dignities of his office; and that his Highness,

in

in consequence of their invitation, intended to leave Utrecht, and was to arrive that night at Schoonhoven.

I never was more affected than with the Duke of Brunswick's behaviour at this interesting moment. He hoped that such a revolution would take place; but, I believe, he scarcely expected it would happen so soon. After inquiring at what o'clock it was probable the Prince would be at Schoonhoven, he sat down to table; but the news which he had just received, would not allow his attention to be fixed on any trifling object. I confess that, in some respects, I was in a similar situation, for as long as his Highness was present, my attention was entirely fixed upon him.

I never beheld the Sovereign Prince, the General, and the Gentleman, so perfectly united. Without descending improperly from the dignity of his own rank, the utmost politeness was visible in his manner of speaking to every person; and no one, I am per-

abandoned the town on the night of the 15th.

The division of the Prussian army under General Lottum appears to have completely effected one purpose for which it was intended, which was, by approaching Amsterdam, to alarm the Patriots with regard to the safety of that city, and prevent them from furnishing assistance to their associates, in other parts of the province.

I do not recollect to have ever heard a more remarkable instance of general panick having seized a nation, than that which now takes place in Holland. Nieuwpoort and Schoonhoven, which from their situation were capable of a long defence, were abandoned without firing a shot ; and the same has been the case with other strong fortresses. The rapid progress of the Duke's army has been well calculated to increase the terror of the Patriots *. The march of the Prussians may well

* In consequence of this panick the Province of Holland was overrun in a few days, no place making any resistance but

well be called rapid, for the detachment which yesterday took possession of Schoonhoven, had crossed three great rivers, and marched 35 leagues in seven days, notwithstanding the situation of the roads, which were rendered very deep by the violent rains that had fallen on the 16th and 17th.

During this time the army did not halt one day; and the Duke of Brunswick, as well as the common soldiers, was exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather. You will readily conceive that the panick which has seized the Patriots must have been very great, when I tell you, that although the Prussians have taken near 400 pieces of cannon, and about 600 prisoners, they do not know of more than eight Dutchmen who have been killed. The truth is, they have

but Amsterdam, where, from its remote situation, the Patriots had time to recover from the first impression of terror. Had the Duke of Brunswick, after taking Gorcum, lost but a few days, the event of the campaign might have been very different.

at Seist, a small village about five miles from Utrecht. His advanced post was at the Bilt, three miles nearer to that city. Some works had been thrown up at these places which were sufficient to prevent the garrison of Utrecht from making any impression on the Stadtholder's army ; but, on the other hand, that army was by no means equal to an attack on the city. Several skirmishes had taken place, and the Bilt was frequently cannonaded by detachments from the town ; but neither of the parties was sufficiently strong to effect anything decisive ; and there is great reason to imagine, that if no foreign power had interfered, things would have remained in nearly the same situation, till the approach of winter had rendered it impossible for the army at Seist to keep the field. The friends of the Stadtholder in this Province would then have been placed in a very critical situation ; but it is needless to consider what might have happened in that case, since a very different turn was soon given to the affairs of Utrecht.

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I have already mentioned that the Patriots had spared neither trouble nor expence in fortifying this city. As I am not of the military profession, I hope you will excuse me if I do not attempt to describe the fortifications, or give any opinion with regard to their construction. I shall only mention a few circumstances which cannot escape the notice of an observer, who is in any degree attentive. Utrecht is a very large town, and the old ramparts are little calculated to resist an enemy. As the extent of the city rendered it difficult to surround it with new intrenchments, the Patriots exerted their utmost abilities to fortify it on the East side, which lay most exposed to the Stadtholder's army. They thought that to the westward they had little reason to fear an attack, as they were at that time in alliance with the province of Holland.

The works were erected according to the directions of French engineers, and were supplied with a large train of artillery.

the intentions of the leading persons in the city, he assured me, that at seven o'clock none of the inhabitants had the least idea that there was any likelihood of its being evacuated. This gentleman, with whom I conversed a good deal, being persuaded the Prussians would in a few hours attack the city, took with him whatever he had that was of most value, and at nine o'clock set out for Amsterdam, leaving Utrecht in perfect tranquillity. I was informed by another person of my acquaintance, that between eleven and twelve o'clock authentic intelligence was received, that the Prussian troops, under General Lottum, had advanced to Amersford; and that General Waldeck had taken possession of Wyk-Duerstede: a Council was immediately called. The Rhingrave of Salm represented, in strong terms, the defenceless situation of Utrecht on the West side, and the danger to which it would be exposed, if the Prussians should advance so as to cut off the communication between the city and the Province of Holland. Terror now succeeded to confident security. The Patriots,

triot's, without waiting to spike the cannon, and without observing any order in their retreat, began to evacuate the town soon after midnight. Every man took care of himself and his own concerns, and the public security was totally neglected. Most of the troops, and the chief persons of the party, retired to Amsterdam, and the road to that place exhibited a scene which it would be difficult to describe. Those who could procure boats, carriages, or horses, thought themselves fortunate. Those who could get none of them followed on foot, carrying in their hands, or on their shoulders, whatever they had been able to bring with them. The greater part of the fugitives took the same road as their leaders; but many retired to other cities and villages of Holland; and, as you will readily believe, carried confusion and panick wherever they went.

In the mean time the change which took place in Utrecht was so sudden, and so great, as to appear to be the work of enchantment. Before five o'clock in the morning of the 16th
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body was to be seen without some mark of that colour.

About noon the Stadtholder entered the town, and was received with the greatest demonstrations of joy, by those who were attached to his party. Their number was considerable, though it was not equal to what it was in many places in the province of Holland. The Patriots who remained quiet in their houses were not molested by their conquerors: the States of the Province returned from Amersford to the capital, and Utrecht*

soon

* It appears from this account, that the fate of Utrecht is in great measure to be ascribed to the admirable distribution of the Prussian Forces. It was the march of the two columns of the army, under General Lottum and General Waldeck, which alarmed the garrison, on account of the danger of being surrounded. The loss of Utrecht was attended with very important consequences. A general spirit of distrust took place among the Patriots: many imagined they were betrayed, and almost all were convinced that nothing could resist the Prussian arms, when they found that at the approach of these troops, a town was abandoned without firing a shot, which they hoped would prove a bulwark to the Province of Holland. The fugitives from Utrecht contributed in no small degree to occasion that panick which immediately

soon became the seat of joy and festivity.

mediately followed. They communicated their fears wherever they came, and the consequences were such as I have described in my letter from Tienhoven. The conduct of the Rhingrave of Salm was much censured by the Patriots, and many persons of that party accused him of having betrayed the cause in which he was engaged. I do not pretend to form any judgement with regard to the truth of this accusation. The Commissioners of Defence at Woerden published an account of the evacuation of Utrecht, which implied that the Rhingrave might have defended it. That gentleman soon after wrote a vindication of his conduct. It was once my intention to have added these pieces to my Appendix; but, having been disappointed of one of them, I think it would not be right to publish the other.

I must add, on one side, that most people in Holland agreed in censuring the Rhingrave; but, on the other hand, I am persuaded that, if Utrecht had not been abandoned, it would have been taken by the Prussians whenever they thought proper to attack it.



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LETTER

L E T T E R VI.

DEAR SIR,

Rotterdam, Sept. 20, 1787.

I LEFT Tienhoven about eleven o'clock, and returned to Gorcum; where I remained but a little while, and then came to this place. Nothing could be more pleasant than the first part of my journey. The weather was fine; the road runs along a dike, with the river on one side, and so many houses on the other, that for some miles it may be called a continued village. Men, women, and children, were dressed in their best apparel, and all were ornamented with orange-coloured ribbons. Nothing was to be heard but songs in praise of the Stadtholder. Orange flags were to be seen on all sides; and not only the people, but the
doors

doors and windows of the houses, and even the trees, were covered with all kinds of ornaments of that colour.

It seemed as if every person had exerted himself to excel his neighbours, in the manner in which he decorated his house. One ornament, and that a very common one, contributed not a little to give the road a most extraordinary appearance. This was a kind of triumphal arch, made of poles covered with gilt paper, ribbons, and flowers of an orange colour, with mottos interspersed of different kinds; but all expressive of gratitude to the King of Prussia, the Duke of Brunswick, and the Stadtholder.

There were few houses without an arch of this kind placed before the door; and, though I cannot say much for their elegance, yet the whole assisted in rendering the scene exceedingly chearful and pleasing. Chearful indeed it was, beyond every thing that can be imagined. The expression of joy and

satisfaction, which was to be seen on the face of every creature, was such as I never could have conceived, if I had not been an eye-witness.

When I looked at these happy beings, I could not help asking myself, Where are the Patriots? or, How comes it to pass, that a Prince so much beloved by the people, should have stood in need of foreign assistance to restore him to his rights? Whatever answer might be made to these questions in consequence of further information*, I am sure that what I have described, accounts in great measure for the little opposition which has been made to the Prussian arms on this side of the Province. The troops of the Patriots in these parts, were but just sufficient to keep in subjection

* The answer, I believe, is very plain.

The opposition to the Stadtholder lay chiefly in those cities whose Deputies composed the States of the Province, and had the government in their hands. The inhabitants of the open country were in general well inclined to the Prince of Orange.

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the common people, who wished for the restoration of the Stadtholder; and, when a formidable enemy came to attack them, they thought it impossible to resist with any prospect of success, when they well knew, that the surrounding country was ready to take up arms in favour of the Prince.

As I came near Dort, the prospect by the side of the road was exceedingly changed. Here I found several houses with their windows broken; some, of which nothing but the walls were left standing; and one or two, which had been burnt and totally destroyed. I took some pains to find out by whom this mischief had been done; and I was credibly informed that it was not by the Prussian troops, but by the common people, who rose tumultuously this morning, and destroyed several houses that belonged to the Patriots*.

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* Similar proceedings happened about this time in many places in Holland, and the mischief which was done in this

When I came over-against Dort, I saw Orange flags on all the towers of the city. A Prussian officer, whom I met soon afterwards, informed me that this town was taken by a detachment, which the Duke of Brunswick had sent to protect the country, from the disorders that were committed by the soldiers who had escaped from Gorcum.

The Prussians advanced as far as Papendrecht, which is separated from Dort by a very broad and rapid river. The detachment consisted of only 150 foot and 30 Hussars, and had no means of attack-

manner was often attributed, without reason, to the Prussian soldiers. The Government, and persons of the first consequence among the Orange party, took great pains to prevent every thing of this kind: but it was difficult to preserve order among the populace. I must nevertheless observe, that the accounts of these tumults have, in general, been exaggerated. Such proceedings, however, contribute very much to explain the fear which the Commissioners at Woerden entertained, of the consequence of allowing the Princess to go to the Hague in the month of June.

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ing the city of Dort; but the Commander being encouraged by the favourable reception which he met with from all ranks of people, resolved to summon the town. He accordingly ordered a subaltern officer to cross the river for that purpose. The governor immediately consented to capitulate, and 150 Prussians were received in Dort with all possible demonstrations of joy and satisfaction.

This success encouraged the Prussian Commander to attempt another enterprise. He sent an officer with thirty Hussars as far as Rotterdam, to inquire into the state of affairs in that city.

With this officer I conversed at the gate of the town. He told me that, as soon as he arrived, the inhabitants hoisted orange flags upon their towers; the gates were immediately opened; and he was received amidst the loudest acclamations of the populace, who seemed to consider him as their deliverer.

This account was confirmed to me when I came into this place ; in which, as in Gorcum, I find every mark of rejoicing that one might expect to see in a town just delivered from an enemy.



LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Sept. 23, 1787.

I SHOULD have been glad to have seen a little more of Rotterdam, and the towns in that neighbourhood ; but I felt impatient to be an eye-witness of the state of the Hague. I wished to see how the Prince and Princess of Orange would be received after their long absence ; and I lost no time in coming to this place.

I mentioned in my last letter, how readily Dort and Rotterdam had declared for the Prince of Orange. The Brille having always adhered to His party, none of the Prussian troops were sent to that city. Schiedam had been considered as being much attached to the Patriotic cause ; yet I had the

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pleasure,

pleasure, when I left Rotterdam, to see the Orange flag displayed upon its tower. The same was the case at Delft, where the business was scarcely finished, and the gates were still shut. I was of course obliged to go round the town, instead of passing through it.

I arrived here on the morning of the 21st, and found the same general appearance of joy which I had observed at Gorcum and Rotterdam.

The revolution in this place was effected in such a sudden manner, that those persons who resided in the town, were not less astonished than those who received the news at a distance: though they were eye-witnesses to what was going on, they scarce knew the change was begun, before they saw it completed.

The friends of the Stadtholder were always very numerous at the Hague. The States of Holland, sensible of the disposition of the populace; and, knowing that both

the officers and soldiers who composed the garrison were well inclined to the Prince of Orange, had ordered some of the Volunteers to have their quarters in the middle of the town, with two pieces of cannon placed before their guard. At this time all persons were forbid, under the severest penalties, from wearing any ribbon or other ornament of an orange colour *.

Such was the state of the Hague previous to the march of the Prussian forces ; but, as soon as it was known that the Duke of Brunswick was advancing into Holland, every thing assumed a new appearance. The leading persons among the Patriots now thought the Volunteers no longer capable of protecting them, for which reason they proposed to remove to Amsterdam ; and many of them left the Hague without further delay.

* Singing Ballads in praise of the Stadtholder, and crying " *Orangie Boven*," were forbid under like penalties. Even flowers of an orange colour were proscribed ; and I have been told, that the Officers of Justice were for some time employed in removing anemones and ranunculas's from the Hague.

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When intelligence was received that Utrecht was abandoned, and that Gorcum was taken, the Patriots were totally dejected. On the morning of the 18th some of the Swiss soldiers took away the cannon which were placed before the quarters of the Volunteers. No resistance was made ; and as the cannon were drawn through the streets, orange ribbons were tied on them by the populace. This had the effect of a signal to the friends of the Stadtholder. The edict against wearing the colour of his party was still in force ; and any person who had appeared with it on Monday evening, might possibly have forfeited his life in consequence of doing so ; but on Tuesday morning, as soon as the cannon were removed, all ranks of people decorated their houses and persons with the favourite colour. In a few hours the change was universal, and it would have been dangerous to have appeared without an orange ribbon. The States were now unable to resist any longer ; most of the members retired from the Assembly ; and, the very same evening, those who remained,

mained, unauimously agreed to the restoration of the Stadtholder.

P. S. Leyden and Harlem opened their gates on the first appearance of the Prussian Hussars. The towns in North Holland have also declared in favour of the Prince of Orange. The Patriots are now confined to the neighbourhood of Amsterdam, the Prussians having in one week over-run the greater part of the Province.



LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Sept. 24, 1787.

THIS day the Princess of Orange made her public entry into the Hague. The inhabitants of the town, men and women, young and old, the vulgar and people of fashion; all were in motion; and dressed in such a manner, that one might almost wonder how such quantities of orange ribbons could have been procured in so short a time. I should have pitied any person who had appeared this day without some badge of that colour.

About ten o'clock the common people began to assemble, though the Princess was not expected to arrive till two. In a
short

short time, the square, the streets, and all places through which she was to pass, were filled with carriages and innumerable crouds of people both on foot and on horseback. The garrison of the Hague was drawn up to receive the family of its Commander; and both the officers and soldiers appeared desirous of shewing that their joy at the revolution, was not inferior to that of the citizens. The Leyden road, by which the Princess was to arrive, runs through a wood, at the end of which is a long avenue that leads to the town. Great numbers of persons of both sexes went as far as the end of the avenue, and there waited her arrival. About 50 men, and as many women placed themselves in four rank in order to have the honour of drawing her carriage.

They had provided ropes for the purpose; and as soon as her Royal Highness appeared, the horses were taken off, and she was drawn to the Hague in a very different manner from that,

that, in which she was three months before conducted to Goejanverwell-fluice.

The Princess was in an open landau, accompanied by her two sons and her daughter; and in every place through which she passed, she was received with every mark of attachment which a happy people could express.

I will not detain you with mentioning many trifling particulars; but I can, with the greatest truth, assure you that the general appearance of satisfaction which was exhibited on this day at the Hague, exceeded every thing that I ever witnessed in the course of my life.

Virgil has expressed in one line exactly what I wish but am not able to describe :

“ Ergo omnis longo solvit se Teucra luctu.”

I am

I am told that when the Prince of Orange entered the Hague on Thursday, he was received in the same manner as the Princess. All ranks and orders of people have endeavoured to surpass each other, in every demonstration of zeal and affection.

P. S. *Sept.* 26. Yesterday evening I was at a circle at Court, which was attended by all those persons in the Hague, whose situation entitled them to be present.



A Journal of the Proceedings
of the Prussian Army, from
the 13th to the 27th of Sep-
tember *.

ON the 13th of September, the Prussian
army entered the Province of Guelderland
in

* This journal was written by a Prussian officer who was
employed in that Division of the army, which was under the
immediate command of the Duke of Brunſwick. Having
procured a copy, I ſhewed it to ſeveral officers who were

in three columns, of which the two first crossed the Leck by the bridge of Westerporter, and encamped near Arnhem. The third column, which was commanded by the Duke of Brunswick, passed the Waal, at Nimeguen, upon a Pont Volant, and encamped near Lend.

On the same day an account was received, that the *Commissioners of Defence at Woerden* had ordered all the sluices to be shut, in order to inundate the country; but the waters, both of the Leck and the Waal, being uncommonly low, these orders were ineffectual.

present at the different actions, in which the other divisions were engaged. After correcting a few mistakes, in consequence of the information which I obtained in this manner, I translated the journal, and now present it to the public, instead of two letters which I had myself written on the same subject.

Having said that I have made alterations in this journal, and mentioned my reason for doing so, I hope I shall not be blamed, if the translation is found to differ in some respects from the original.

On

On the 14th, the Duke's army marched, in three divisions, to the village of Dodewaart, where the two first encamped, while the third proceeded as far as Tiel. The troops in both camps were plentifully supplied with all necessaries by bateaux, which had come down the Waal, loaded with provisions, with forage, and with pontons. The Duke sent forward from Tiel a detachment of Hussars, under the command of Lieutenant Holtzendorff, with orders to proceed towards Leerdam, both to cover our flank, and to get intelligence of the enemy.

These Hussars having learnt at Deyl, that the town of Leerdam was occupied by the Patriots, proceeded with all possible expedition, but found the place abandoned by the enemy. The great fatigue which their horses had undergone, did not allow of their pursuing them.

The two other columns of the army which had directed their march towards Arnhem, encamped on the 13th, near that town. The next day, the first of these columns under the command of General Lottum proceeded to Lunteren. On the 15th, it advanced to Amersfoort; and, on the 16th, it arrived at Hilversum, a village in that part of the Province of Holland which is called the Goyland. The second column, under the command of Lieutenant General Gaudi, proceeded in two divisions, having the river Leck between them, upon which were bateaux, containing the magazines, the lazarett, and the pontons. One division arrived on the 15th, at Wageningen, where the ovens were fixed, and where the magazines were formed.

On the 16th, General Gaudi marched to Rylwyk, and the advanced guard went forward to Kuilenburg. Major General Waldeck marched at the same time on the other
side

fide of the river, and advanced from Rhenen to Wyk-Duerstede.

It was at the approach of this General that the enemy abandoned Vianen, the Vaart, and the city of Utrecht. On receiving this intelligence, Major General Eben took possession of the town of Vianen, where he found three cannon abandoned by the enemy; he also drove away some workmen who were employed in breaking the great dike of the Leck, in order to inundate the country.

On the same day, this General summoned an Armed Sloop, which had been stationed in the middle of the river in order to obstruct the passage. The Captain at first hesitated with regard to what he should do; but finding the Prussian infantry were advancing with cannon, he surrendered both himself and the vessel to the Hussars of Eben. This sloop carried six guns; and the Duke, in order to recompence the zeal and activity of

the Huffars, made them a present of the prize, which was valued at above 25,000 florins.

The fine weather which favoured our first march, had brought together, as we passed through the towns and villages, a prodigious number of spectators, who filled the air with the animated cry of “Vive Orange, Oranien Boyen;” and the children sung to us the famous song which the policy of the Patriots had endeavoured to proscribe.

On the 16th, the Duke of Brunswick advanced to Asperen. This march was very fatiguing for the foldiers, on account of the rains which had damaged the roads very considerably. As soon as the troops were encamped, his Highness sent a detachment to throw a bridge over the little river Linze; which being performed, the Huffars passed the river, and advanced towards Meerkirk, while the Chasseurs approached to take possession of Leerdam. At the same time the

Duke, escorted by a detachment of Huf-fars, went towards Gorcum, to reconnoitre that place. He found near Arkel the advanced guard of the enemy, which, on account of the river Linze, was unable to prevent his Highness from advancing to within 800 paces of Gorcum, where he reconnoitred its situation very exactly. Some cannon were fired from the ramparts at the detachment, but they were without effect; and the Duke, as soon as he returned into the camp at Asperen, gave orders to summon the town on the next morning.

The same evening there arrived in the camp 25 deserters from a detachment which had been placed at Meerkirk, to protect the workmen who were endeavouring to inundate the country.

At eleven o'clock at night, the battalions of Schack and Renouard were ordered to
march,

march, with the necessary artillery, towards Gorcum. They were escorted by a detachment of Hussars and Chasseurs, and were under the command of Colonel Romberg. The march of these troops was much retarded by the bad roads, and the ditches full of water, which they were obliged to cross, so that Colonel Romberg did not arrive till day-break at Dalem, a small village near Gorcum. In this place he raised a battery of howitzers ; and, at the same time, gave orders to Captain Winsingeroth to summon the town, threatening to bombard it, if it were not surrendered without delay. After waiting an hour, which was the time allowed to the Governor, no answer being received, Captain Winsingeroth was ordered to return, accompanied by a trumpet ; but the sentinel on the rampart having fired upon him, he retired immediately, which Colonel Romberg perceiving, gave the signal to begin the bombardment.

Scarce five grenades, and a few balls,
were

were fired upon the town, when a house was seen in flames; and, at the same time, a white flag was displayed from the tower. In a moment afterwards the enemy sounded a parley. Col. Romberg immediately stopped the fire of the battery, and went himself to the gate, where he found one of the officers. This gentleman not having given him a positive answer, the Colonel desired to speak with the Governor, who came to him directly.

This was the famous Colonel and Chamberlain Capelle, who, after a short interview, consented to give up the city, surrendering himself and the whole garrison prisoners of war; though, at the same time, he had left orders for the soldiers to embark in some boats which were upon the Waal, in order to escape by sailing down the river. At the moment when the capitulation was signed, and just as the troops were going to take possession of the gates, the Duke arrived from Asperen, and immediately entered the town.

Not

Not only the Magistrates of the city, but the greater part of the inhabitants, were eager to meet him, and testify their joy and veneration. On every side nothing was heard but "Vive Orange." The people holding out their hands to his Highness, exclaimed, "Here is our Deliverer." The prisoners that were taken in Gorcum consisted of the Governor, 5 officers, and 63 soldiers. The artillery amounted to 105 pieces of cannon.

The Duke, surrounded with the joyful acclamations of an immense multitude, was conducted to the middle of the city, where he alighted at the house of one of those Burgo-masters who had been attached to the Orange party. In a short time afterwards, his Highness went upon the ramparts to examine the fortifications, which he found in very good condition. At his return, the Duke met his Adjutant General, Captain Hirschfeld, who had just brought into the town six officers and ninety soldiers, whom, with the assistance

ance of seven Huffars, he had surprised and taken prifoners upon the dike of Arkel.

This rencounter took place in the following manner : Captain Hirschfeld had been ordered by the Duke (in case Gorcum made any refiftance) to march at the head of a battalion of Grenadiers towards a poft of the enemy, which commanded the fluices of Arkel. The captain, being informed that the Patriots had ufed no precautions to fecure their rear, refolved to get round the poft with feven Huffars, and, under cover of a neighbouring wood, to take it by furprife. Finding, however, that the enemy had provided for its fecurity by a great number of Cheveaux de Frife, which covered their rear ; and judging, at the fame time, from the filence of the battery at Gorcum (the fire of which had ceafed on a fudden), that the town had capitulated, he gave up this plan of attack. Captain Hirschfeld now represented to the commanding officer of the enemy's detachment, that being intercepted,
and

and having no longer any succour to expect from the city, the only step he could take, was to surrender himself a prisoner of war. These plausible reasons persuaded the officer to yield without making any resistance.

Another division, under the command of Lieutenant General Knobelsdorff, had the same day marched from Leerdam to Meerkirk, where he encamped. The Hussars of this division, with the Chasseurs, were ordered to go forwards to Ameiden, where Lieutenant Colonel Waltruth received information that Nieuwpoort had been abandoned by the enemy. He immediately took possession of it with his troops, and detached Captain Biela, with the Hussars and Chasseurs, along the other bank of the Leck, to reconnoitre the city of Schoonhoven. This detachment found the town occupied by the enemy, who fired some cannon, which they could only answer with their pistols. Nevertheless, the garrison thought proper to evacuate the place, and file off towards Woerden.

Woerden. Our Hussars, in pursuing them, took four officers and a hundred and six soldiers, whom they conducted to the head quarters. Another patrol of Hussars, commanded by Lieutenant Seel, of the regiment of Eben, having met a detachment of the enemy's horse, overthrew them at the first onset, and took an officer and fourteen men prisoners. In the evening the Duke sent some troops of his division to strengthen the garrisons of Nieuwpoort and Schoonhoven; and the next morning he proceeded with the last division of his army, and encamped at Tienhoven, a small village on the bank of the Leek. At this place the troops remained on the 19th. On that day his Highness ordered the bateaux which had followed the army to advance between Nieuwpoort and Schoonhoven; and form a bridge, upon which the Hussars and Chasseurs passed the river the next morning, in order to go forwards to Gouda.

On the 17th, the second column of the army, under the command of General Gaudi, had

had marched from Ryswick to Everdingen, and on the 18th to Vianen.

General Waldeck, during these two days, had advanced from Rhenen to Wyk Duerstede, and from thence to the Vaart, from which place he went on the 19th, to take possession of Schoonhoven.

On the evening of the same day, the Duke was informed, that the friends of the constitution had disarmed the Patriots at the Hague; and the States of Holland had invited the Prince of Orange to return to that place. Soon after he received this intelligence, his Highness removed his head quarters to Schoonhoven.

The troops which composed the garrison of Gorcum, after retiring in a clandestine manner from that town, dispersed themselves in small parties through the country, pillaging the inhabitants in a dreadful manner. In consequence of this, the Duke gave orders to Captain Winsingeroth to go with an
hundred

hundred and fifty foot, and thirty horse, from Gorcum to Giesendam, and from thence as far as Papendrecht, in order to clear the country of the banditti, and put an end to the outrages that were committed by them. On this occasion, the Captain finding himself over against Dort, summoned the magistrates of the town to admit a Prussian garrison. This demand being immediately complied with, the detachment crossed the river without loss of time, and was received amidst the general acclamations of the inhabitants.

On the 19th, about nine o'clock in the evening, the Prince of Orange arrived from Utrecht at Schoonhoven, and passed the night at the head quarters of the Duke of Brunswick, in the same house, and the same room, in which the Princess had been kept a prisoner on the 29th of June. A little while before the arrival of the Stadtholder, there came two deputies from the States of Holland, to entreat the Duke of Brunswick, not to send any Prussian troops into the

Hague; that place being the residence of the States General, and the Foreign Ministers. His Highness complied with the request of the deputies, and gave orders to all the advanced parties, not to approach within a league of the Hague.

The prisoners that had been taken at this time, were 23 officers, and 523 soldiers. The number of pieces of cannon that had been found in the different towns, forts, and intrenchments, amounted to 340. The quantity of military stores of all kinds was very great. The troops, during the last seven days, had performed the most fatiguing marches, the roads being almost impassable; but notwithstanding this, and though they were sometimes obliged to encamp in low and moist grounds, few of the soldiers were ill, and not one of them had deserted.

On the 20th, Lieutenant Holtzendorff of the regiment of Eben, made himself master of Wiericher Schans, a fort between Gouda and Woerden. One Lieutenant Colonel, three officers, and sixty soldiers, were taken in the fort,
in

in which were also found ten pieces of cannon with a great quantity of military stores. At the same time a detachment of Hussars, under the conduct of Major Lenz, was sent to Leyden and Harlem, where our troops were received, on the 20th, and 21st of September, with the greatest demonstrations of joy. Another body of Hussars, under the command of Lieutenant Koschenbahr, had been detached by the Duke towards Alphen, with orders to send patrols along the dikes which lead to Amsterdam, in order to discover the situation of the country. This detachment on the 21st, met a strong patrol of the enemy, composed of Hussars and Cuirassiers of Salm, which had advanced as far as Leymuiden. Our Hussars, after attacking and defeating the enemy, pursued them to Amstelveen, and brought back 32 prisoners.

In the mean time, the right wing of the army under the command of General Lottum had advanced to Hilversum. On the 17th, Major General Kalckreuth was sent with a detachment to Naarden, to propose terms to Colonel

Matha, who commanded in that place. He accordingly marched with forty Cuirassiers of his own regiment, and the first battalion of the regiment of Eichman, the second battalion of that regiment following him soon afterwards. The detachment encamped that night at a short distance from Naarden. On the next day, Colonel Matha rejected the terms which were offered him, and General Kalckreuth considering the necessity of gaining the left side of the river Vecht without loss of time, moved from before Naarden. He immediately sent three small detachments under the command of Captains Kleist, Quitzow, and Winterfield, to surprise the passages of the Vecht at Breuk-olyn, Maarssen, and Zuylen. The two last of these attempts were completely successful. At the same time Lieutenant Wierbitzky marched with all possible expedition towards the intrenchments of Uytermeer, not far from which he was stopped by a draw-bridge that was badly secured by seven Dutch soldiers. He found means to get the bridge let down by the Cuirassiers; and then proceeding full gallop

gallop towards the intrenchment, he made himself master of it, before the garrison had time to recollect themselves. A Major, four other officers, and forty men were taken in the fort, together with fifteen eight pounders, and a considerable quantity of stores. This place was furrounded by two intrenchments and two wet ditches. The same officer, after he had made himself master of Uytendammer, proceeded with the greatest expedition to Wesep, accompanied by a party of Cuirassiers. He would probably have carried this place at the first onset, if the rest of the Prussian troops had been able to follow him with equal speed. This day Captain Kleift found it impossible to advance with his detachment to Breukolyn, that place being commanded by the artillery of Nieuwerfluis. The two other Captains took possession of the bridges at Maarsen and Zuylen, which they immediately repaired. In the mean time General Kalckreuth made himself master of two sluices near Breukel, by means of which all that part of the country might be laid under water.

On the 19th, the General went to reconnoitre the environs of Breukolyn, and examine the narrow dike of Ouderoofer which leads to Nieuwerfluis, and by means of which that fort might be invested. For this purpose Captain Quitzow was posted in the village of Nieuwesterau, Captain Winterfield at Breukolyn, and Lieutenant Colonel Hartog encamped with the infantry before the last mentioned village. While this was going on, the commanding officer in Nieuwerfluis had sent a detachment with orders to break the dike in the great road, at about 100 paces from the fort. This was prevented by Lieutenant Hagen, who put himself at the head of the Cuirassiers of the advanced guard, and forced the detachment to retire into the fort, in spite of a warm fire which was kept up from the ramparts. On the next day, report was made by Lieutenant Wierbitzky, that by taking Loenersloot, the fort of Nieuwerfluis might be cut off from any communication with Amsterdam, and
would

would be obliged to surrender for want of provisions, with which it was supplied from that town. General Kalckreuth, after having examined the situation of the place, gave orders that the villages of Loener-Vreeland and Bambrugg should be occupied ; and, at the same time, sent Captain Quitzow with six men along the dike, to reconnoitre Loenersloot, which was said to be defended by 150 Patriots. All these dispositions being made, and a vedette of Cuirassiers being sent forwards, General Averhoul, who commanded in Nieuwerfluis, imagined the whole country was overrun by the Prussian forces. In consequence of this, he surrendered the place on the 21st of September, as soon as he was summoned by General Kalckreuth. Forty officers and 730 soldiers were taken in Nieuwerfluis. Among the former was Lieutenant Colonel Prevost, an officer in the French service, and among the latter were 36 French cannoniers. Fifty-four cannon were also taken in the fort.

On the 22d, Captain Quitzow was detached with some Infantry and Cuirassiers, to reconnoitre the village of Ouderkerk, in which the Patriots had placed a strong garrison. General Kalckreuth followed with all the infantry as far as Abcoude, being resolved on the next morning to attempt getting possession of the road which leads to Ouderkerk. He was, however, obliged to defer this attack, on account of intelligence which he received the same evening, that the enemy had begun to break a dike near the Byler Meer. In consequence of this, the General determined to send Captain Quitzow, with a detachment both of infantry and cavalry, to drive them away.

On the 23d, two accidents occasioned the miscarriage of an attempt that was made on Wefep. The party which marched against that town having lost their way, in consequence of the darkness of the night, were prevented from arriving in time to surprise

prise the garrison, who were also informed of their approach, by the accidental fire of a musket. Notwithstanding this, Lieutenants Munster and Wierbitzky attempted the attack, but were not successful. Two of their men were killed, and eleven were wounded. Among the last was Wierbitzky. In the afternoon of the same day, three battalions of Dutch troops, in consequence of the orders of the States of Holland, evacuated the village of Ouderkerk, and went into the country of the Generality. Their place was immediately supplied by some Patriots from Amsterdam.

On the 23d, the Duke marched, with the Hussars, two companies of Chasseurs, and the battalion of Langeler, from Gouda to Alphen; and, at the same time, gave orders for two battalions of Waldeck, to advance from Schoonhoven to Gouda, and two battalions of Marwitz, from Nieuwpoort to Haestrecht.

On that day, the Hussars took some prisoners, among whom was found a priest, in a clergyman's dress, but carrying a cartouch-box, and having a large sabre by his side.

On the 24th, the four last battalions were ordered to join the troops of his Highness at Alphen, from whence he went with the Hussars, the Chasseurs, and the battalion of Langeler, to reconnoitre the enemy, who were said to be intrenched at Amstelveen. A thick fog had prevented us, during the whole morning, from being able to distinguish objects; but when it cleared up, we saw, with astonishment, that the inundation had risen to the surface of the dike upon which we had marched during three hours, so that there were few places where it would have been possible for any kind of carriage to turn. When we came to Noordammerbrug, we were obliged to repair the road, which was very narrow in that place. Our advanced guard having at last arrived at
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Hand-van-Leyden, discovered a party of the enemy, who, after firing and killing the horse of one of the Hussars, retreated to their main-guard. The Duke gave orders to the Chasseurs to pursue them; but, soon after, having discovered the intrenchments of Amstelveen, he ordered them to return, which they did without any loss, though they had been exposed for some time to the fire of the Chasseurs of Salm, and some pieces of artillery.

On the morning of the same day, Major General Kalckreuth advanced with his troops to Abcoude and Uythoorn, with a design of making himself master of Ouderkerk. While the General was employed in making the necessary dispositions for this attack, he received an express from the Commanding Officer at Ouderkerk, with a proposal of a cessation of Hostilities, assuring him that the Regency of Amsterdam had agreed to send Deputies, on the next day, to the Duke
of

of Brunswick, to offer submission to his Highness. This account was given to the Duke at his return, and was soon after confirmed by the arrival of a messenger from the Magistracy of Amsterdam. In the evening, there came to the head quarters an officer and 29 Chasseurs of Salm, who had deserted from the intrenchment which we had just before reconnoitred.

On the 25th, all the battalions remained in cantonments in the villages near Leymuïden, from which place the Duke set out early in the morning, with a few attendants to go to Abcoude. The roads which his Highness met with in passing along the cross dikes, were so much destroyed by the inundations, that he was several times obliged to dismount, and walk on foot, which occasioned his arriving very late at Abcoude. Notwithstanding this, he went the same evening to reconnoitre the fort. It was at this place that the Duke, in concert with General Kalckreuth, formed the plan of a
double

double attack against Oudenkerk, both on the side of Abcoude and of Uythoorn. This was to be executed at the same time that his Highness was to attack the intrenchments at Amstelveen; and endeavour to make himself master of the sluices of Zwanenburg.

With this view the Duke, when he returned on the 26th, by Uythoorn, gave orders to throw a bridge over the river Amstel, near the village of Vrouwenacher, both to keep up the communication between the detachments, and to facilitate the passage of the heavy artillery. His Highness, on his return to Leymuiden, found two deputations waiting his arrival. The one was composed of four members of the States General; the other consisted of Messieurs Abbema and Goll, who came from the Magistrates, and two leading men among the Patriots, who came from the Citizens of Amsterdam.

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In consequence of this last embassy, a truce was concluded at Leymuiden, on the 27th of September, and time was allowed to undertake a negotiation at the Hague.



LETTER

L E T T E R IX.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Sept. 29, 1787.

I MENTIONED in a former letter, that upon the approach of the Prussian army, several members of the States of Holland had proposed removing to Amsterdam. Agreeably to this proposal, some persons met there on the 20th, but their number was small, and their cause appeared so much on the decline, that the plan was given up, and only the Deputies of Amsterdam are now wanting to complete the Assembly at the Hague.

Since the return of the Stadtholder, that Assembly has agreed to several important resolutions. The day that the Prince entered the Hague, an edict was issued abolishing
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the Armed Societies which had been established to support the Patriotic cause.

The following day, an express was sent to inform the Court of Versailles, that the disputes between the province of Holland and the Stadtholder were happily terminated; and that, as the circumstances which gave occasion to the solicitation of the States on the 10th instant, no longer existed, the succours which they at that time requested from the French King, would now be unnecessary.

On the 22d, two edicts were issued, one of which forbid any attempts to inundate the country; and the other commanded all governors of towns and fortresses in the province of Holland, to give free admission to the Prussian forces. In consequence of this order, the strong towns of Naarden and Wesep have been surrendered.

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This Province is not the only one, in which the march of the Duke of Brunswick's army has produced very important effects. The Assembly at Franeker was immediately dissolved, and the Patriots quitted that town in a manner not very unlike to that in which Utrecht was abandoned. The opposition to the Stadtholder in Groningen and Overyffel is also given up, and the proceedings of the States General are now conducted with great unanimity.

The revolution being complete in the rest of the Seven Provinces, the chief persons of the Patriotic party have retired to Amsterdam, and that city is now become the great object of attention. The surrounding country has been laid under water; strong batteries have been raised; the different posts which command the roads that lead to the town have been fortified; and the citizens declare they are

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resolved to defend themselves to the very last extremity.

Some attempts have, in the mean time, been made to settle this important business, by a negotiation at this place. The magistrates of Amsterdam sent two of their members to the Duke of Brunswick, on the 27th; in consequence of which, a truce was granted by his Highness, and deputies came to the Hague; but it does not appear from the language of the Patriots, that they are much afraid of being forced to submit.

Yesterday, the Duke of Brunswick, who had two days before reconnoitred the situation of the enemy's works at Ouderkerk and Amstelveen, came here in private. I was in hopes his coming would have led to the conclusion of a treaty, but this has not been the case. The terms proposed by the Patriots have not been thought

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admissible

admissible by the opposite party ; the Duke is returned to Leymuiden ; and this important affair will, probably, in a very short time, be submitted to the decision of the sword.



L E T T E R X.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Oct. 3, 1787.

AS soon as I understood that the treaty with Amsterdam was entirely broken off, I resolved to go as near as possible to that city, in order to obtain the best information with regard to what was expected to happen at the expiration of the truce. I accordingly left the Hague on the evening of the 30th, and went to Leyden.

The next morning, I had the most striking instance that I had yet met with, of the appearance of a populous city in a moment of anxious expectation. Every countenance shewed very plainly, that the inhabitants of Leyden considered their own fate as being in great measure involved in the fate of Amsterdam.

sterdam. Several persons were come from the neighbourhood of the Prussian camp, who had brought accounts of the army having marched soon after midnight to attack the enemy's works. The firing of cannon had been distinctly heard at Leymuiden, and every one who arrived, was expected to be the bearer of important intelligence. You will not wonder at my saying, that at such a moment, every other consideration was suspended, and the attention of the inhabitants of Leyden, was entirely engaged by one object.

I proceeded directly to Harlem, in hopes of being able to get to Amsterdam on that side, which I knew, if the town were not taken, it would be impossible to do, if I passed through the Prussian camp. I also preferred this road as being the shortest, and my object was, to be an eye-witness of the state of Amsterdam, whether taken, besieged, or victorious. I travelled in company with a gentleman who was just returned from a long journey. At Harlem we were joined

by his two brothers, who were come to meet him from Amsterdam. All the family were strongly attached to the Patriotic cause ; and though I did not conceal how much my sentiments differed from theirs, yet my companions invited me to spend the evening with them, and I accepted the offer, that I might learn the particulars of what had happened in the morning, and acquire some information with regard to the situation of Amsterdam, and the possibility of going there. These gentlemen informed me, that Half Wegen, a post of great consequence, between Harlem and Amsterdam, had, the preceding night, been surprised by the Prussians ; but that, on the other side of the town, the Duke of Brunswick had been repulsed, after making a vigorous and general attack ; that seven hundred Prussians had been killed ; that two villages had been burnt and totally destroyed, not a house remaining ; and that the event of the day had been favourable to the Patriots *.

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* I have not omitted this story, or the report of the destruction

This intelligence induced me to go directly to the post which the Prussians had seized. Yesterday morning I took leave of my Patriotic acquaintance; and, notwithstanding their remonstrances, for they assured me I should be sent a prisoner to Wesel, I ordered a carriage, and went to Half Wegen. I was two hours in going to that place, though the distance is little more than five miles; but the straight road had been rendered impassable by the Patriots, who were apprehensive of an attack on this side, from the city of Harlem.

The Prussian commander at Half Wegen, received me with that politeness which seems to be the characteristic of officers of his nation. As soon as he knew that I was an

stranger of Gorcum, as I thought they were good examples of *rumour*, and the little dependence that could at this time be placed on accounts which appeared the most authentic. The gentlemen with whom I conversed, had left Amsterdam the same afternoon, and seemed to have no doubt of the truth of what they had heard.

Englishman, and had been with the Duke at Tienhoven, he seemed anxious to shew me every possible mark of attention and civility. We went together to examine the sluices of Zwanenburg, to protect which the Patriots had taken the greatest pains ; and my conductor was so good as to explain to me, in what manner he had taken possession of a place, which, from its situation, might have been thought perfectly secure.

Some circumstances, which he did not mention, I afterwards learnt from one of his officers ; and the result of them is, that this enterprise was executed by him, with spirit and courage, equal to the ability with which it was planned by his Commander.

Such was the situation of Half Wegen, that any attack on the west side was out of the question, for a very small force might have defended the batteries, against any number of troops who had endeavoured to approach by the road from Harlem. This being the case, the Duke of Brunswick ordered

dered a detachment of about 700 men to embark at Aalsmeer in the night of the 30th of September. These troops crossed the Harlem Meer, and landed near Slooten, from whence they proceeded to Oostdorp, and arrived before day-light on the Amsterdam side of Half Wegen. They lost no time in proceeding to the batteries, but rushed directly on the enemy, who expected no attack from that quarter. The business was soon over ; a French officer, who commanded, was made prisoner, together with the greater part of his troops, and the Prussians took possession of this important post without losing a single man.

After we had walked about for some time, and just as I was going to take leave of my conductor, a circumstance happened which detained me some hours longer at Half Wegen.

The attention of the Prussian commander was engaged by an armed sloop which approached the shore, and fired a gun. The Prussians were not slow in making use of their batteries, but they had not occasion to
fire

fire many shots, for the vessel directly struck her main sail (colours she had none), and came down to Half Wegen. My curiosity had induced me to wait, till I saw the event of this business. In a short time the officer came to me, and begged me to go on board the sloop, as he believed the crew were Englishmen, for they spoke a language which none of his people could understand. I accordingly went, and found a privateer sloop, armed with eight pieces of cannon. The master, mate, and two thirds of the crew, were Dutch Patriots. The rest of the sailors were Englishmen. The vessel belonged to the Patriots, and was just come out of Amsterdam. Some of the Englishmen had been hired to go on board her, and others said they had been kidnapt in the streets of the town. Whether this was the case or not, I do not pretend to determine; but the consequence was, that the English sailors, when they found they were near the Prussian batteries, rose upon the master and the rest of the crew; the gun that we heard was discharged by accident in the scuffle; the

English-

Englishmen got the better of the Patriots, took possession of the sloop, and brought her down to Half Wegen. The sailors were not less glad to find a countryman with whom they could converse, than I was to oblige the Prussian officer. I accordingly stayed, and acted as interpreter, till he was sufficiently master of the affair; and then, when I could be of no further use, I took leave of my kind friend; and all communication with Amsterdam being cut off, I went back to Harlem, and from thence returned to this place*.

* I was much puzzled at the time, to understand with what design this sloop was sent out by the Patriots. At last it occurred to me, that it must have been with a view, by means of her guns, to burst open the flood gates at Half Wegen, and inundate the country. Some time afterwards, when I was at Amsterdam, I was confirmed in this idea, by conversing with some Patriots, who fairly owned to me that such was their intention. If this was really the case, the service rendered by my countrymen might, perhaps, be of no small importance. I say *perhaps*, because I am inclined to think that, at all events, the Prussian batteries would soon have obliged the sloop to retire; but as I am no judge of the subject I mention it with diffidence.

P. S.

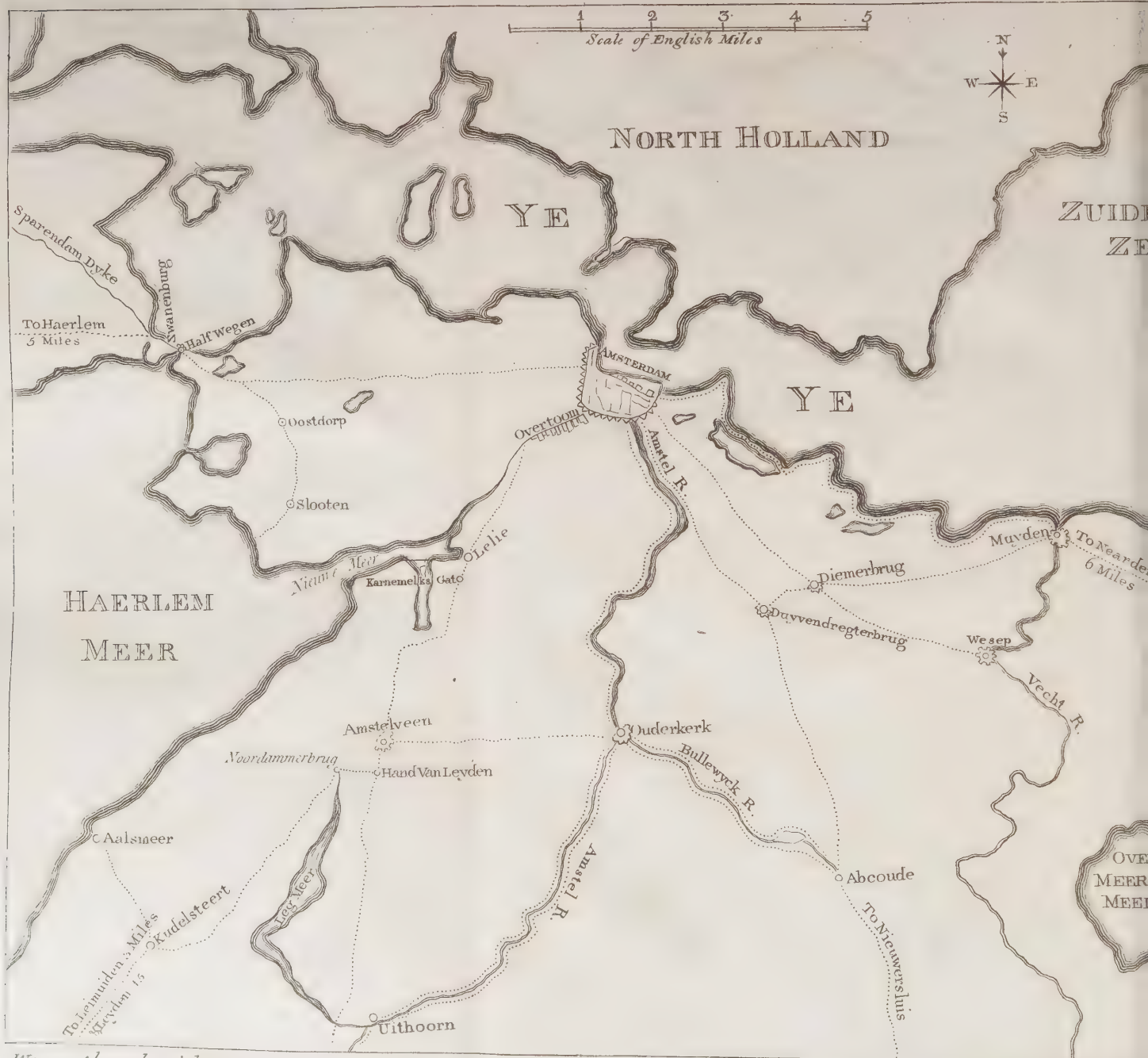
P. S. While I was at Half Wegen, an officer arrived from the Duke's army, who brought an account of the engagement on the other side of Amsterdam. He said that the action was very warm, and the event was a long time doubtful, but the Prussians were at last successful. I shall defer sending you the particulars of the engagement, till I have had an opportunity of viewing the field of battle, and comparing what I have now written, with the accounts of other persons, who were present at the different actions.



LETTER

A MAP of the COUNTRY near the CITY of AMSTERDAM

intended to explain the account of the different Actions that took place on the 1st of October 1787



Wesep, Abcoude, Uithoorn, Kudelsteert, & Aalsmeer were in the possession of the Prussian Forces before the Engagement on the 1st of October. Muuden, Diemerbrug, Duyvendregterbrug, Ouderkerk, Amstelveen, & Half Wegen, were fortified by the Patriots.

L E T T E R XI*.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 22, 1787.

I HAVE now had an opportunity of procuring information from very good authority, with regard to the different actions which took place in the neighbourhood of Amsterdam, on the first of this month. In describing these actions I shall be more particular, as I have reason to imagine the important business of that day has hitherto been little understood. I cannot pretend to write an account fit for the perusal of your military acquaintance; but having viewed every spot which I shall have occasion to

* This letter was not written till I had passed ten days at Amsterdam. I have inserted it in this place on account of its connection with the preceding and following letters.

mention,

mention, and having conversed frequently with persons who were present at the different engagements, I think I can take upon me to say, that the account I am going to send you is true. This is all I attempt; and if I am able to explain what really was done at Amstelveen, and can give you a tolerable idea of the means by which it was effected, I hope I shall be excused if many circumstances are omitted, which a person more conversant with military operations would have been able to describe.

Before I proceed, I beg leave to say a few words with regard to the importance of the action on the first of October. Many battles have been fought, and many sieges have taken place, in which the number of combatants has been greater, and in which the number of killed and wounded has exceeded that of the persons concerned in this engagement; but I will venture to assert, there has seldom been a day, the event of which was of more importance; or a day when greater military abilities were displayed,

played, than appeared in the conduct of the Duke of Brunswick on the first of October. To prove the first of these assertions, I must observe that, if the Duke had not overcome those obstacles arising from the situation of Amsterdam, which no General had hitherto been able to surmount, that city could not have been compelled, and undoubtedly would not have consented, to agree to those measures which the other members of the States of Holland had unanimously adopted. In that case, the Patriotic party would have gathered fresh strength, and a civil war would probably have continued in the province of Holland. How far the consequences of such a war might have extended, or in what manner different European nations might have been affected, I do not presume to say; but I am much inclined to think, that the ablest politicians would find great difficulty in answering the question. It is certainly unnecessary to say any thing more with regard to the importance of this engagement; but I cannot help enlarging a little, in pointing out the difficulties which

were

were to be overcome, in order to bring the business of the day to a successful issue. To do this, and to make any account of the action intelligible, it is necessary to be acquainted with the geography of the environs of Amsterdam. Here I hope you will forgive me, if I detain you some time, while I attempt to describe the situation of this city, and the principal places in its neighbourhood.

The Zuider Zee, and that branch of it which is called the Ye, extend from the East to the North West of Amsterdam. The Harlem Meer, a Lake about 16 miles long, and about 8 miles broad, lies to the West, and South West of the city. The land by which this Lake is separated from the Ye, is no where above three or four miles broad, and in one place, which is called, from its situation, Half Wegen, these two great bodies of water actually communicate; and here it is, that by means of flood-gates of an uncommon size, the water of the Ye is prevented from discharging itself

self into the Harlem Meer, and overflowing great part of the province of Holland. Many persons have assured me, that such an inundation would be felt as far as the Hague. It is certain, that the slightest observation shews very plainly, that the level of the sea at high water is rather above the level of the Harlem Meer, and the neighbouring country. The only communication by land between Amsterdam and Harlem, is by a road carried over the flood-gates at Half Wegen. This place, as you will naturally conceive from its situation, is capable of being rendered very strong, and no pains had been spared by the Patriots, to fortify it in the best manner. Batteries were erected according to the directions of a French officer, to whose care this important post was intrusted; and the approach from Harlem was rendered as difficult as possible, by breaking the bridges, cutting down trees, making ditches across the road, and laying the country under water. All access to the town of Amsterdam, on this side, was by these means supposed to be rendered impracticable.

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The country to the South West, South, and South East of the city, is rather below the level of the sea at high water, or the surface of the river Amstel. The ground is, for the most part, laid out in meadows, surrounded with wet ditches, and the meadows were at this time covered with water, by inundations which the Patriots had made, by breaking the dikes of the Amstel, the Vecht, and the Nieuwe Meer. These inundations, though, in general, they were not very deep, were sufficient to render it impossible for any troops to pass through the meadows, as they could have no means of discovering the ditches, with which they were surrounded, and in many places intersected. Such being the situation of the country, the only way by which it was possible to approach Amsterdam, was by the roads that run on the dikes ; and even this method of proceeding was almost impracticable. The surface of the water was in some places nearly on a level

level with the dikes, and the dikes are in general so narrow, that few men could march abreast, nor could more than one, or at most two, pieces of ordnance be brought to bear at one time on the enemy's batteries. I shall enlarge no further on the difficulty of advancing with an army through a country like that which I have described. Every person who is acquainted with the military profession must immediately be struck with it; and nothing that I could say would convey a proper idea of it, to those who are not conversant with the operations of war.

The roads that lead to Amsterdam along the dikes, which I have described, are five in number, exclusive of the road to Harlem by the flood-gates at Half Wegen. One of these goes to the East, towards Naarden, along the dike of the Zuider Zee, and passes through Muiden, which lies about six miles from Amsterdam, and is a regular fortification. Another road nearer to the South East, runs by Diemerbrug to Wesep, the former of which places was defended by

strong batteries. A third road leads to Abcoude, and was defended by similar batteries at Duyvendregter Brug. A fourth road runs nearly South, by the side of the Amstel, till it comes to the village of Ouderkerk. Here the Amstel is divided from the Bullewijk, and by the sides of these rivers are four narrow dikes. All these approaches to Ouderkerk were strongly guarded. The last road from Amsterdam runs nearly South West, at no great distance from the Harlem Meer. This road leads to Utrecht, Leymuiden, and Leyden; and, as an attack was chiefly dreaded on this side, no pains had been spared, by the Patriots, in raising formidable batteries and intrenchments at Amstelveen, a village about six miles from Amsterdam, and at no great distance from Ouderkerk, with which it is connected by a cross dike.

All these posts were to be approached by the straight and narrow roads which I have described; they altogether formed a line which, extending from Muiden to Amstelveen, and Half
Wegen,

Wegen, was above 17 miles in length. They were defended by works raised according to the directions of French engineers. The batteries were plentifully supplied with artillery, and with French artillery men ; and the very best troops in the service of the Patriots, were employed in the different posts that were liable to be attacked. Together with all these advantages, they had an open communication with Amsterdam, from whence they could be furnished with supplies of all kinds, and to which they had an easy retreat in case of necessity. Armed vessels were stationed on the Zuider Zee, to prevent the Prussians from approaching on that side, which they might otherwise have attempted by an embarkation from Naarden.

Such were the means of defence, in which the citizens of Amsterdam reposed their confidence, and set at defiance that power to which the rest of the province of Holland had yielded submission. Few persons, I believe, will wonder at the security of the Patriots, if they reflect, that these were the barriers which, in a former age,

had set bounds to the conquests of Louis the XIVth, and were found to be insurmountable by Condé, and by Luxembourg.

The Prussians, on the 30th of September, were stationed in the villages of Aalsmeer, Kudelsteert, Uithoorn, Abcoude, and the town of Wesepe.

All hopes of peace being over, and the truce being expired, the Duke of Brunswick was obliged to have recourse to arms. He accordingly resolved to attack all the posts of the enemy at the same time; and the morning of the first of October, was fixed upon for carrying this plan into execution.

Orders were given for three different attacks to be made at Amstelveen, four at Ouderkerk, one at Duyvendregter Brug, one at Diemerbrug, one at Muiden, and one at Half Wegen. Of this last I shall take no further notice, having already given you a full account of its success. At the

principal attack on Amstelveen, the Duke was to command in person. Proper officers were appointed to lead on the troops at the other places, and all were ordered to march at such a time as to be ready at their respective stations, at five o'clock in the morning, when three guns, fired at an interval of ten seconds, were to be the signals of a general attack.

I must here observe, that from the nature of the dikes, there were several of these attacks which it was not possible to suppose could be successful, but they were designed as Feints, to divide, and distract the attention of the enemy; and, at the same time, were attended with a chance of success, if that enemy should neglect to make use of the advantages which the situation afforded.

The principal object of the Duke, was to get possession of Amstelveen, and the road from that post to Amsterdam; but as this was almost impossible by an attack in front,

his Highness resolved to attempt surprising the enemy, by taking them in the rear.

To determine if such a measure could be carried into execution, a British officer, who had acted as a Volunteer during the whole expedition, was directed to proceed in a boat along the Harlem Meer, and make as accurate a survey as possible, of the situation of the ground behind Amstelveen. This dangerous, but important service, was executed with courage, ability, and success. Our countryman passed several of the enemy's batteries; he proceeded along the Harlem Meer to the further part of it, where the lake terminates in a long narrow bay, which is called the Nieuwe Meer; he examined the situation of the grounds near the water; and returned in safety to the Duke, making his report, that the enterprise, though difficult, was not impracticable. His Highness immediately resolved to undertake it, and a detachment of between six and seven hundred men was embarked in
flat

flat boats at the village of Aalsmeer. These troops were ordered to proceed along the Harlem Meer, to endeavour to land, and gain the high road between Amsterdam and Amstelveen, and then, by attacking that post in the rear, to make way for the entrance of the Duke's army. As this object was of the greatest importance, his Highness, for fear the detachment which crossed the lake should not be successful, ordered two companies to endeavour, under cover of the night, to proceed along a footpath by the edge of the water, and in like manner to get into the road at the back of Amstelveen.

The charge of the embarkation was committed to the same officer who had examined the banks of the lake on the former day, and under his direction the whole was conducted in such a manner that not one boat was overset, nor one man lost, either in embarking or landing the foldiers. Anxious to arrive in time, to second the Duke's efforts, they used all possible exertions; and,
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I can well conceive what was told me by one of the officers, that when it was near five o'clock, he was scarce a moment without looking at his watch. At last they arrived at the shore, and landed at a spot called Lelie, when, just as the troops were getting out of the boats, three guns were distinctly heard at an interval of ten seconds. The signal was repeated by each of the Prussian detachments, at their respective stations, and an universal cannonading immediately ensued. This redoubled the ardour of the soldiers, but their difficulties were not over. The distance from the road was not great, yet, on account of the inundations and ditches, the getting to it was by no means easy. They were fortunate enough, at this moment, to lay hold on two peasants, who, at that early hour, were come out to look after their cattle. These men conducted the Prussian troops to the road from Amsterdam, where they had the satisfaction of being joined by the two companies who had marched by the edge of the water; and after surmounting the greatest difficulties on account

of

of the inundations, had arrived at Karne-
melks Gat ; and like their comrades, gained
the high road, about three miles from Am-
stelveen. The detachment now divided, one
part remaining to resist any folly which
might be made from Amsterdam, the other
proceeding directly towards Amstelveen.

The charge of the embarkation, as I be-
fore observed, had been intrusted to a British
Volunteer ; but after the troops had made
good their landing, they proceeded under
the command of a Prussian officer. This
officer advanced with the utmost gallantry at
the head of the detachment, all opposition
was soon overcome, the Patriots were driven
from a strong battery, and seven traverses,
which they had erected in the rear of Am-
stelveen ; and the Prussians were arrived
within a short distance of the village, when,
instead of entering it, they halted at the
last traverse. This is said to have been
owing to a misapprehension of orders, with
respect to the care which it would be
necessary to take, lest the fire of the two
divisions

divisions of the army, entering Amstelveen in opposite directions, should be attended with loss to their own troops.

More than four hours did the Prussians remain in this situation, during part of which time they were exposed to the fire of the enemy's cannon, which fortunately were elevated too high; and during the whole of it, were anxious to the last degree, with respect to the fate of the Duke and their fellow soldiers, who they were sure, from the continuance of the cannonade, were all that time persisting in the attack.

Nor was there less anxiety on the side of their General. His Highness had advanced before day-light along the road from Kudelsteert, till he came to a small hamlet, which is called from its situation Hand-van-Leyden. It was at this place, about 1200 yards from Amstelveen, that the signal was given, and the attack began.

The

The Duke in a short time made himself master of an advanced work of the Patriots, about 400 yards nearer to Amstelveen. The Prussian troops were disposed in the most advantageous manner that the situation of the dike would admit; but it was soon very apparent that the intrenchments of Amstelveen were such as could not be forced on this side*, if they were properly defended by the Patriots. The Duke, after bringing forwards a howitzer, with which he endeavoured to annoy the enemy as much as possible, ordered the greater part of the troops to retire to Hand-van-Leyden, between which place and Noordammerbrug, a battery had been raised, to attempt to take the intrenchments of the village in flank. His Highness in the mean time remained, with the howitzer and one battalion, near the advanced work which he

* These intrenchments are particularly described in another account of this engagement.

had taken, looking continually for the appearance of the detachment which he had sent by the Harlem Meer. It was on the success of that measure, that his hopes of getting possession of Amstelveen were principally founded.

The Patriots, on the other hand, were well prepared to receive their enemies. They had employed the preceding night in getting every thing ready for that purpose, and now, protected by the works which they had thrown up, and sensible of the advantages of their situation, they kept up a heavy fire upon the assailants. The Person whose life was of the greatest consequence, was at this time the most exposed to the batteries of Amstelveen.

At last, after waiting between four and five hours, the Prussian troops received the reward of their labours. The officer who commanded the two companies which had marched by the edge of the Harlem Meer,

now

now quitted the rest of the detachment, and advancing with his division into the village of Amstelveen, attacked the enemy in the rear, drove them from their batteries, and made a free opening for the Duke's army.

I am sure you will forgive my national vanity, when I mention, with no less pleasure than truth, that in this enterprize he was accompanied by the same British officer, who had conducted the embarkation of the troops. Fortune seconded the bravery of my countryman, and he happened to be the first person who made his way through the village of Amstelveen, and brought the news of success to the Duke of Brunswick.

This blow decided the fate of Amsterdam. The Duke, now master of the high road, could advance as near the city as he pleased, and might with little trouble have bombarded it, if his moderation, in the moment of conquest, had not been equal to his courage in the hour of combat.

The

The great object being gained, the different detachments were ordered to retire from the other attacks, none of which, except that at Half Wegen, had been successful. The Patriots had defended themselves with courage; and the Prussian troops, though they acted with the greatest spirit, had found it impossible to drive them from their batteries.

I shall not detain you with an account of what passed at those attacks; but I cannot help mentioning one circumstance, which represents, in a strong light, the character of the Prussian Grenadiers. A piece of cannon was brought forward near Diemerbrug, drawn by three horses, which were all killed in the action, and when the troops were ordered to retire, it was thought proper to leave the cannon behind them. It would accordingly have been left, if the Grenadiers would have permitted it, but as soon as they heard it, they resolved to return to the place, and bring the cannon away with their
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own hands. This they performed, and not contented with so doing, they went back a second time, through the hottest fire of the enemy, and brought away part of the carriage which had been left behind. When the business was over, their Commander gave them some money, as a reward for their courage; but these brave fellows immediately cried out, they would give it to such of their comrades as had been wounded in the enterprise.

In the attack at Amstelveen, the Duke lost about 50 men : in the other attacks 4 officers and about 100 foldiers were killed, and as many were very severely wounded.

I have not been able to learn what the loss was on the side of the Patriots ; most of those who were killed were immediately thrown into ditches, and the number has not been exactly ascertained.

The Duke who always appeared to make

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it a rule not to risk the life of one man without absolute necessity, had the satisfaction of seeing the measures which he had taken, attended with complete success. The troops that occupied the village of Ouderkerk, to which those who escaped from Amstelveen had retired, finding the Prussians advanced towards Amsterdam, and fearing their communication with that city would be cut off, abandoned their post, and withdrew to the town the night after the action. The other out posts of the Patriots were surrendered a short time afterwards, and the Prussians, without being obliged to fire another shot, became masters of all the avenues which led to Amsterdam.

On the evening of the engagement, the magistrates took great pains to conceal from the people the real state of their affairs. As they had repulsed the Prussians in several places, they boasted of their victory; but, as they knew that the city could no longer be defended, they sent deputies to the
Duke

Duke on the very next morning, to propose terms of capitulation *.

* I was assured of the truth of the following circumstance from very good authority.

The truce between the Duke of Brunswick and the city of Amsterdam expired on the evening of the 30th of September. On the morning of that day, the officer who commanded at Amstelveen, informed the magistrates, that every thing was secure, unless the Prussians attacked his rear by crossing the Harlem Meer. In order to prevent this, he advised them to station some Armed Vessels on the Lake. The magistrates replied, that they would do it the very next day. Unfortunately for them, the Prussians crossed the Harlem Meer in the intermediate night. Had the Duke of Brunswick delayed carrying this plan into execution but twelve hours, there is great reason to believe the attempt would have been ineffectual.



An Account of the different Actions
which happened in the Neigh-
bourhood of Amsterdam, on the
first of October 1787 : written by
a Prussian Officer in the Army of
His Serene Highness the Duke of
Brunswick *.

ON the evening of the 30th of Septem-
ber, the Duke of Brunswick assembled all
the Generals and Commanding Officers, to
give

* Though I have no reason to suspect the truth of any
part of the foregoing letter, yet I am happy to have procured
an account of the engagement at Amstelveen, which

give them instructions, and communicate a plan, in pursuance of which a general attack was to be made on the enemy, the next morning at five o'clock.

His Highness's dispositions were as follows: one battalion of Grenadiers, two companies of the regiment of Marwitz, and 20 Chasseurs, were to march the same night to Aalsmeer, where they were to embark in flat boats which were ready for them. Their orders were, to pass the Harlem Meer, to land near Slooten, and from thence to proceed to Zwanenburg, in order to make

was written by a Prussian officer. As it appears that this officer was not one of the detachment which crossed the Harlem Meer, I cannot help believing that, with regard to that expedition, he was less accurately informed than myself. I nevertheless think it right to publish both our histories of the action, as it is possible I may have been mistaken; and in that case, the Prussian officer's account will be the means of correcting whatever is defective in my letter. For this reason I hope I shall not be thought guilty of tormenting my readers *repetita crumbe*.

them-

themselves masters of the sluices at that place.

At the same time, another battalion, and 20 Hussars, were to march to Aalsmeer, to embark in like manner in flat boats, to proceed along the Nieuwe Meer, to land near a bleaching-ground, and endeavour to take the enemy in the rear, by the road from Overtoom.

A third detachment, consisting of two companies, was to advance along a cross dike to Karnemelks Gat, and to get behind the intrenchments of Amstelveen, so as to attack them in the rear, at the same time that the Duke attacked them in front.

His Highness having communicated these dispositions to the commanding officers, and having given instructions to each one in particular, ordered all the battalions to be in motion at the beginning of the night, in order to march to their respective stations.

The officer who commanded the first detachment, having embarked with his troops at eight o'clock in the evening, landed at half after one in the neighbourhood of Slooten. He left 30 men to take care of the boats, and advanced to Slooten, which he occupied with the two companies of the regiment of Marwitz; he then continued his march to Oostdorp, and posted 30 men on the road which leads to Amsterdam, after which he endeavoured to gain the sluices at Zwanenburg without alarming the garrison. Proceeding forwards, he found a piece of heavy ordnance, which was left behind an intrenchment that had been raised near the little village of Half Wegen. This cannon he ordered to be spiked; but, unfortunately, as one of the cannoniers was endeavouring to do it, a spark from the nail discharged the piece, and alarmed the Patriots, who soon after began to fire from the houses of Half Wegen. Notwithstanding this, our troops ran forwards to Zwanenburg, and took possession of the sluice, which

they found was defended by good fortifications, and a battery of five pieces of cannon. The Patriots, as soon as they appeared, were disarmed and made prisoners. Immediately after taking this place, the Chasseurs, and two companies of the battalion, were sent forwards to the sluice of Sparendam, of which they made themselves masters in the same manner.

In the mean time, the officer who commanded the second detachment, after embarking at Aalsmeer, and passing along the Nieuwe Meer, arrived about Four o'clock near a bleaching-ground called Lelie. Here he landed his troops, and waited the signal appointed for the general attack.

The third detachment had also arrived at the same time, and with the same success, at Karnemelks Gat, after being obliged to repair several bridges that had been broken, and after passing the cross dike, which they found but little damaged by the inundation.

Being

Being arrived at that place, and finding they now had not more than 400 paces to march, in order to gain the high road from Amsterdam, the troops were ordered by their commander to lay down on the ground, that they might wait the signal without being discovered.

The Duke having resolved to command in person, the attack which was to be made on the front of the enemy's intrenchments, gave orders for 200 Hussars, and 80 Chasseurs, together with the battalion of Droft, to be ready for that purpose. Two six-pounders and four howitzers were to be taken with them. The regiment of Waldeck was ordered to follow, but it was to be at some distance, in order to avoid confusion, as the dike of Amstelveen was very narrow, and on each side of it were deep ditches full of water. The meadows were also covered by the inundations, so that very little ground was left, in which the soldiers could move or act.

At

At one o'clock in the morning of the first of October, the troops began to march. They arrived at half after two at the bridge of Noordammer, which had been broken down by the enemy, but was soon repaired, and was covered with straw, that the soldiers might pass it without making any noise. Twenty Hussars were stationed at the end of this bridge, and the rest of the troops were arranged in the following manner:

The Chasseurs were placed on the sides of the dike, two men deep, with orders to endeavour, during the attack, to make their way on the right hand or the left, according as the ground would allow them, in order to take the enemy in flank. The Chasseurs were followed by the first platoon of the Grenadiers of Droft, who had with them two pieces of cannon. Behind this platoon, and at the distance of 300 paces, marched the rest of the battalion of Droft, having with them two howitzers; the other two how-
itzers

itzers followed with the regiment of Waldeck.

It was in this order that the troops proceeded to Hand-van-Leyden, of which a patrol of the enemy had just taken possession, but was soon dislodged by the fire of the Chasseurs. This village being occupied, and two pieces of cannon being placed upon the dike which leads to Amstelveen, the signal of a general attack was given at five o'clock in the morning, and soon afterwards we saw distinctly the fire of the batteries at Ouderkerk.

The Chasseurs, followed by the first platoon of the Grenadiers of Droft, advanced to clear the dike of the trees, which the Patriots had laid across it. This being performed, the Duke immediately attacked an intrenchment of the enemy, some hundred paces from Hand-van-Leyden, and carried it at the first onset, notwithstanding its being furrounded by a ditch filled with water, and defended by palisades.

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The day now began to break, and we saw distinctly that the enemy had raised another intrenchment between Amstelveen, and that of which we had just taken possession. This work had before it a double ditch full of water, and it was defended by Cheveaux de Frise, which the commanding officer in Amstelveen had constructed in such a manner, as to bear upon the dike, both to the right and left of the draw-bridge. This determined the Duke to halt in the intrenchment that we had taken.

His Highness immediately sent forward the Chasseurs, to a spot where, being protected by some hay-stacks, they were to try to throw a bridge over the ditch of this intrenchment; that, by so doing, we might be able to advance our artillery, and oppose it to that of the enemy; which being effected, a howitzer was placed upon the dike, notwithstanding a brisk fire from the batteries of Amstelveen.

After

After the action, it was found that this single piece of artillery had considerably damaged both the batteries of the Patriots, and the houses of the village. The enemy, nevertheless, continuing to cannonade us very warmly, his Highness, after several fruitless attempts, ordered the Chasseurs to retreat, and the same orders were given to the Grenadiers of Drost, who were equally exposed to the batteries. The shelter received from the hay was by this time lost, from its having been set on fire. Both these parties retired to Hand-van-Leyden, where a battery had been raised to fire upon Amstelveen.

In this position we waited during four hours and a half, with the utmost impatience, looking for the approach of the detachments which the Duke had sent to attack the enemy in the rear, and oblige them to divide their forces, which at present were all directed against us. It must be allowed that, during the whole of this time, his Highness was in a very dangerous and critical situation.

tion. He nevertheless continued to encourage his troops, and inspire them with all the intrepidity of which his own behaviour had set them an example. To render our situation more desperate, we saw, about ten o'clock, a reinforcement of regular troops coming towards Amstelveen, by the dike of Ouderkerk. We had already prepared ourselves to go to meet this reinforcement, and engage it on the dike*; when, on a sudden, the face of affairs was entirely changed in our favour.

The detachment which crossed the Harlem Meer, had made themselves masters of all the intrenchments on the dike of Overtoom; and the two companies of the regiment of

* I have inserted this circumstance, because it is expressly mentioned in the original. I conceive, however, that the writer must have been mistaken. The Prussians had no means of getting to the dike between Amstelveen and Ouderkerk. If this had been in their power, they would certainly have done it when the action began, in order to attack Amstelveen in flank.

Marwitz, after having driven the enemy from their works on the dike which led to Amstelveen, had pursued them vigorously into the village, which obliged the Patriots to retire precipitately towards Ouderkerk. The Duke no sooner perceived the approach of his detachments, than he advanced with the Chasseurs, and 24 Grenadiers towards the enemy's battery. He ordered the ditch to be filled, and joined the two companies of Marwitz, which were already in the intrenchments. We cannonaded the enemy with their own guns, as long as they were within our reach, but they fled with such haste as to escape our pursuit. It was in this manner that this memorable action was terminated.

We took 318 prisoners, among whom were 20 that were wounded. We also took in the intrenchments, 17 cannon, one howitzer, and an immense quantity of military stores. As the Patriots had immediately buried those who were killed, it was not possible to ascertain their number. Our
 loss

loss consisted in 19 men killed, and 53 wounded, the greater part of whose wounds were very bad ones.

As the fort of Ouderkerk is surrounded on all sides by the river Amstel, and by wide ditches filled with water, our artillery alone was not able to force it to surrender, though it had considerably damaged the houses in the village. The fire of our batteries was accordingly ordered to cease; soon after which we were informed that the enemy had abandoned the place, and were retired to Amsterdam. Upon the receipt of this intelligence, our troops went the same evening to take possession of the fort, in which they found 16 Patriots mortally wounded.

The next morning, some deputies arrived from the magistrates of Amsterdam, who came to propose a cessation of arms; assuring the Duke, that the magistracy was ready to submit to any terms which he should think proper to prescribe. His Highness agreed to comply with their request, but at

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the same time gave orders to make all necessary preparations for bombarding this great city, in case the magistrates should violate their engagement*.

* Several copies of this letter have been circulated. That which I have translated I believe, to be, one of the most accurate ; but it is, in some respects, different from other copies. I mention this circumstance, because I am sensible that what I have here inserted, is not a literal translation of that account of the engagement, which appeared in some of the Foreign Gazettes.



L E T T E R XII.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Oct. 10, 1787.

SINCE the 1st of this month, the Duke of Brunswick has continued at Amstelveen, waiting the event of the negotiations, which were renewed at the Hague, soon after the late engagement. As nothing of consequence has happened in the Prussian army, I think I cannot do better than give you some account of what is going on at this place.

On the 6th, the Deputies of Amsterdam took their seats with the other members of the States of Holland, and gave their assent to whatever had been done since the 17th of September.

The Assembly being now complete, it was unanimously agreed to send a deputation to the Princess of Orange, to ask what satisfaction she required, for the insult which had been offered her at Schoonhoven.

On the 8th, a letter was received from the Princess, in which she expressed her desire, that no other punishment might be inflicted on the persons who had offended her, except their being no longer continued in offices of trust, in which they might have it in their power to disturb the public tranquillity. (*Vide Appendix, p. 83.*)

The States, as soon as they received this letter, sent again to the Princess, to inquire who the persons were that had been guilty of the offence. A list of sixteen names has been returned by her Royal Highness, and there is no doubt, but the persons who are mentioned in that list, will be deprived of the offices which they hold in their respective cities*.

* This was done on the 11th.

The fate of Amsterdam is now in great measure determined, and one cause of anxiety is of course removed. It is true that some points are still unsettled; but these are trifling objects in comparison with the great question—whether the Capital was to agree to those resolutions which the States of Holland have lately adopted, or a civil war was to continue in the Province. This question was decided by the Prussian army on the first of this month.

All kinds of diversions and entertainments are in the mean time going on at the Hague; and though I have often experienced the favourable reception which an Englishman is almost sure to meet with on the Continent, yet I must allow, that whatever I have formerly seen, falls very short of the kindness with which I am now treated. This may possibly be in some measure owing to my having passed some time at this place, when the late British Ambassador was here.

His name is still mentioned by the most respectable persons in Holland, with the strongest expressions of friendship and esteem. I do not, however, attribute the partiality of which I am now speaking entirely to that cause. It is not peculiar to me, nor am I indebted for it to my own merits, but to those persons in England, who have acted such a part as makes their countrymen secure of being received in the United Provinces, in a manner which is highly gratifying to our feelings.

I know that in what I am going to say you will laugh at my national prejudices; you may do so, and I will honestly plead guilty to the charge of being partial to my own country; but I do assert, that I never did, nor ever will, allow that partiality to betray me to exceed the bounds of truth. Having said this, I will fairly confess, that my pride is flattered in the highest degree, by the expressions of gratitude, with which the friends of the Stadtholder mention the
conduct

conduct of Great Britain, on the late trying emergency. They all acknowledge that the revolution was not more the work of the King of Prussia, than of the King of England; and that it was by the exertions of the British Cabinet, that an opportunity was given to the Duke of Brunswick, to display those talents which are now the subject of universal admiration.

I do not think I should express myself too strongly, if I were to extend this last observation to all the inhabitants of the Republic; for even the Patriots, whatever aversion they may bear to those who have contributed to their overthrow, cannot deny, that Great Britain has been always true to the party whose interest it adopted; nor can they deny, that its exertions have been productive of very important effects.

Most of the nobility, and persons of the first consequence at the Hague, express the greatest satisfaction at the restoration of the Stadtholder; and though some of them are

still afraid of new troubles being excited by those who have lately been subdued ; yet, in general, they hope that the established Constitution will now be supported, and that if alliances can be formed with England and Prussia, the Republic may recover its former state of happiness and prosperity.

These, I assure you, are the sentiments of persons of the first rank in this country. An opposite class, I mean the lower order of people, are for the most part attached to the family of Orange, and are happy at the return of the Prince. This was very evident when the late change took place, for the populace were no sooner at liberty to act according to their inclinations, than they almost all appeared impatient to throw off their submission to their rulers.

You will perhaps think that I have no better grounds for this assertion, than seeing every body dressed in orange-coloured ribbons, and enjoying for a moment the alteration in the government. I assure you that I go
further.

further. The countenance of happiness or discontent is not easily mistaken, nor can it be easily dissembled by the lower order of people; and that person must, in my opinion, have had little knowledge of Human Nature, who could have travelled through Holland as I have done, at this interesting moment, and not have perceived that most of the towns, villages, and hamlets, were filled with a populace who were transported with joy at some fortunate event. In making this observation, I mean it as general, not as universal. Some places I have seen, where the greater part of the inhabitants had looks of disappointment, which their orange ribbons could not possibly conceal.

The middle class of people, the Burgers, are those with whose sentiments I have the least opportunity of being acquainted; but I imagine they are less favourably inclined to the Stadtholder than either the higher or lower order of people. I believe, however, from the best information I can obtain, that if it were possible to poll

poll all the inhabitants of the Seven Provinces (excepting the city of Amsterdam) a great majority of persons would declare their satisfaction at the restoration of the Prince of Orange. Within the walls of the capital I suppose the very reverse would be the case; but, not having been there, I cannot speak with any degree of certainty upon the subject.

If the account which I have given is true, you will ask, How it came to pass that the Stadtholder was driven out of Holland, and the assistance of a foreign army was necessary to restore his authority? To answer this question, I must beg you to consider the constitution of the Republic. Consider how very limited is the authority of the States General; how great a share of power resides in the magistrates of the different towns; what weight the province of Holland, from its wealth, must always have in the affairs of the Republic; and, how great influence the city of Amsterdam must as certainly possess

possess in the Assembly of the States of that Province *.

I have often inquired, by what means the Patriots obtained such absolute power in the Regency of Amsterdam, and in the Assembly of the States of Holland.

The following answer has been given me by persons on whose veracity I think I can depend. Great influence the Patriots had long possessed, for their party was very strong; but, nevertheless, in the course of the late disputes, several cities which had the right of sending Deputies to the States of the Province, were well inclined to the Stadtholder; and others, though in general they were disposed to favour the Patriotic cause, were not willing to proceed to such lengths, as the chief persons of that party were desirous of leading them.

* Holland pays above half the expences of the Republic. Amsterdam pays above half the quota of the Province of Holland.

In the beginning of the month of April, the States of Holland were so equally divided, that it was, for some time, difficult to say which party had the majority, questions of great importance being more than once decided by a casting vote. In order to remove the difficulties which arose from this circumstance, and to obtain a majority in the Regencies of the towns, and of course in the States of the Province, the most violent measures were employed by the Patriots. Let me give you one fact, as an example of their proceedings.

On the 21st of April, when the magistrates of Amsterdam were sitting in the exercise of their duty, an armed force surrounded the Stadthouse. The leaders of the party came into the Assembly, and delivered a paper, containing the names of several persons in the Regency, who, they said, were unfit for the office which they held. They added, that the Burghers insisted upon their
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being dismissed, and others appointed in their place. The paper was not signed by any one person ; but, in consequence of this measure, nine magistrates were forced from a situation which is generally considered as being held for life, and an equal number of Patriots were chosen in their room.

These proceedings excited much discontent among the opposite party. The deposed magistrates remonstrated in the strongest manner, and applied for redress to the States of the Province : but their application was fruitless. A majority of that Assembly thought proper to declare, that the business was to be considered as a domestic concern, the decision of which they left to the magistrates of the city, in which the measure that was complained of had taken place.

The party which brought about this change in the capital, did the same in the
other

other towns of Holland, though not in precisely the same manner. In many of those towns the Patriots were not sufficiently strong to act as they had done at Amsterdam, and it was necessary to send an armed force to effect the purpose which was intended. A kind of flying camp was accordingly formed, which consisted of Patriotic Volunteers, who went from city to city, through the whole Province, purging the Regencies. This was their expression, and these were the means by which they performed it. In every city, they forcibly turned out those magistrates who were friends to the Stadtholder; and, by placing Patriots in their room, obtained a majority in the Regencies of the towns, and almost an unanimity in the States of the Province.

The Brille was the only place in which, by the assistance of a Swiss garrison, the Magistrates were enabled to defeat the attempts of the Patriots, and prevent the Volunteers from entering their city. During
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the late troubles the officers and soldiers of the Swiss regiments were remarkable for that fidelity which is the characteristic of their nation. To get rid of this obstacle, it was proposed in the States of Holland, that the garrison of the Brille should remove to Gertruidenburg. The Deputies of the town, knowing very well, that as soon as the soldiers quitted it, the Volunteers would enter, and depose the magistrates, objected to the proposal. Some delay was by these means obtained; but a measure of this kind would probably have been carried into execution in a few days, both at the Brille, and the Hague, if the march of the Prussian army had not suddenly counteracted all the plans, which had been formed by the Patriots.

It is time to put an end to this long dissertation, for I believe you will rather give it that name, than call it a letter.

If I have placed any thing in an improper light, it is because I am deceived myself, for I endeavour to state every thing to you, exactly

actly as it is represented to me; and, if further observation should convince me that I am wrong, I assure you I shall be very ready to acknowledge my error *.

* I think it right to mention in this place, that the above account was obtained from persons who were attached to the Orange party. I must add, on the other hand, that the accounts of these extraordinary transactions, which are to be found in the Patriotic papers, do not differ materially from the substance of the foregoing letter. They relate the facts in much the same manner, but state the violent removal of the magistrates, to have been a measure absolutely necessary for the preservation of liberty, and the Republic.

Those persons who think it was illegal for a body of armed men to depose the lawful rulers of the chief cities of Holland, will probably be of opinion, that, from this period, the Assembly of the States of that Province could not be considered as the lawful Sovereign of the country, but as being composed of men, elected, and supported by no other right than the force of a musket. In order to make this letter more intelligible, I have added to the Appendix (Page 93.) a sketch of such parts of the constitution of the Republic as are most connected with the subject.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 12, 1787.

AS soon as I had reason to think this town accessible, I resolved to come here ; and as I wished to see all its environs in the best manner, I provided myself and my servant with English horses, and yesterday, about noon, I set out from the Hague. Instead of the common road by Harlem, I came on the East side of the Lake, and arrived, about five o'clock, at the village of Leymuiden.

As I had rid more than twenty miles, and intended to pass the night at that place, I confess I was a little disappointed, at finding every house occupied by Prussian Hussars. Having more than once experienced the hos-

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pitality of officers of that nation, I addressed myself to the first that I met. I told him, I was an Englishman going to Amsterdam, and should be much obliged to him, if he could inform me where was the nearest village, in which I could get lodgings for myself and my horses.

The officer replied, that all the villages in the neighbourhood were filled with Prussian troops ; but, that it would always give him pleasure to be of any use to an English gentleman ; that he should be happy if I would accept of half of his apartment ; and, in that case, he would take care that my servant and horses should be provided for. I immediately accepted this obliging offer, and have seldom passed a more agreeable evening.

I now received the first authentic intelligence of the Prussians being masters of Amsterdam ; which circumstance, together with the different events of the campaign, and some particulars relating to the action at
Amstel-

Amstelveen, furnished sufficient matter of conversation.

This morning, I took leave of my kind host, and continued my journey, feeling impatient to see the situation of the country, where an engagement took place, which is spoken of by all professional persons, as having been conducted in such a manner as would have added to the military fame of the greatest Generals.

A melancholy scene now presented itself to my view. The road along which I passed, ran on the top of a narrow dike, and the country on both sides was wholly covered with water, which in some places rose as high as the road. This great extent of water had not the appearance of a sea, or a lake. The situation of the country-houses and cottages, trees and gardens, which were seen in great numbers, shewed but too plainly to what cause the inundation was owing. The sight

of many handsome villas, for the present wholly abandoned, and the idea of the loss sustained by their owners, was very unpleasing; but I did not feel so much on their account, as on that of the peasants. The little property of the poor people was, in a manner, destroyed by these efforts which the Patriots had made, in hopes of preventing the Prussians from approaching Amsterdam.

Other reflections of a very different kind were raised in my mind, by the appearance of the country. I could not help admiring both the conduct of the General, and the bravery of the troops, who had made themselves masters of a city which was placed in a situation, that would by most armies have been thought inaccessible. I also reflected with great pleasure, that the spirit and expedition with which the Duke of Brunswick advanced, had hindered similar inundations from being made in other places, and had, probably, been the means of preventing

venting the greater part of the province of Holland from exhibiting the sad spectacle that was to be seen near the city of Amsterdam.

Continuing my journey along the narrow dike which I have described, I came in little more than an hour to the village of Amstelveen, where other signs of the effects of war presented themselves to me. The marks of a warm cannonade were visible on all sides; and the remains of the different works which the Patriots had erected for their protection, left me in astonishment at the means by which the Prussians had made themselves masters of the place. One circumstance, which I had several times observed since I came into Holland, here struck me in a very strong light, and gave me great satisfaction. In this village, in which the engagement on the first of October had taken place, I could discover no house that had been burnt, nor hear of any person who had been killed or wounded by the

Prussian soldiers, except in the time of action *.

I proceeded with little alteration in the surrounding view, till I came to the Overtoom, at the entrance of which are the head quarters of the Duke of Brunswick. His Highness immediately gave me a passport, with which I came to Amsterdam.

* Much has been said with regard to the manner in which the province of Holland was plundered by its conquerors. I took great pains to acquire true information upon this subject; and whenever I heard of a town or village which had been treated in that way, I went to the spot, unless it was at a very great distance, and I always found the reports either wholly false, or very much exaggerated. It is not in my power to assert that this was really the case in every instance; but, having found it so in those which fell under my own observation, I am much inclined to believe it in others, with regard to which I was not an eye-witness. In a country, in the state that Holland was in at this time, scarce any story was to be credited without the strongest evidence.

Since my return to England, I have heard the disturbances at Bois le Duc attributed to the Prussians: I therefore take this opportunity of saying, that none of their troops were in that town, or in its neighbourhood, during any part of the campaign.

The Overtoom is a long suburb to the town, extending about a mile from the Leyden Gate. The situation of this place, and of the country near it, is rather more elevated than what I had lately seen, and was, for the most part free from water.

I now had the houses of the Overtoom on my right hand; and I saw, on my left, the ground from whence the Duke of Brunswick might easily have bombarded the town, if he had not resolved to do every thing in his power, to effect his purpose by more gentle means.

Hitherto every person that I met, wore some badge of an orange colour; but I was now to be witness to a very different scene. At the gate of the city, and on the open ground within it, were an hundred and fifty Prussian Grenadiers. Through these I passed without any difficulty; but I confess I was struck with the appearance of the

armed Burghers, mounting guard at the end of the street which leads to the Stadthouse.

I soon found that my English horses, and orange cockades, attracted universal attention. I saw a few ribbons of that colour in the streets, but they were in very small numbers; and by far the greater part of the people that I met, had such countenances as one might expect to see in a town, which was just taken by an enemy.



L E T T E R XIV,

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 13, 1787.

THIS day, I employed some hours in riding through the different parts of Amsterdam. I observed the appearance of the town, and the looks of the inhabitants. An orange flag was hung on the tower of the Stadthouse, and a few others were to be seen in the harbour; but, though forty-eight hours had elapsed since proclamation was made, that all persons were not only permitted, but even advised to wear some mark of an orange colour, yet few such marks were to be seen in the streets. Do not imagine that these observations are absolutely trifling. There is reason to believe, that almost every person who favoured the cause of the Stadtholder, now appeared with the badge

badge of his party, and few of the Patriots had yet assumed the colour which had lately been proscribed *, every one being permitted to do what he pleased. The difference between Amsterdam, and the rest of the Province, was very remarkable. Instead of the cheerful and happy countenances which were to be seen in great numbers at the Hague, Gorcum, and Rotterdam, I now beheld on all sides, either the look of disappointment, or of anxiety, not yet secure of personal safety.

Armed Burghers were every where patrolling the town ; few people were standing at the doors of their houses, none were collected in any numbers in one place, and scarce any stood still to speak to those whom they met in the streets. Such was the appearance of the greater part of Amsterdam.

At last, having turned by accident into a street near the harbour, I came into a scene of gaiety, which exhibited such a change as surprised

me exceedingly. I now found men, women, and children, covered with orange-coloured ornaments, some of them singing those songs in praise of the Stadtholder, which I had been accustomed to hear at the Hague. Others dancing, and others employed in fixing garlands and suitable mottos to the doors and windows of their houses. Great numbers of triumphal arches had been set up, which, like those that I formerly described on the road to Dort, were covered with every kind of ornament of an orange-colour, that can possibly be imagined. The inhabitants of this district came round me, with very different looks from what I had before seen. *Oranje Boven* was echoed from every creature; many insisted on shaking hands with me; and I was constantly employed in returning their salutations.

I have since inquired what this corner of the town is, which differs so much from the rest of the city. It is called the *Cattemburgh*; and the inhabitants are for the most part

part sea-faring people, or workmen in the dock-yards. They have always been remarkable for their fidelity to their High Admiral; and on a late occasion, when the change was made in the magistracy of the city, it was not without difficulty, and the loss of several lives, that the Patriots were able to prevent these people from proceeding to extremities.

In the Jews quarter of the town, I found a repetition of what I had seen in the Cattemburgh, except that the inhabitants were contented with more silent demonstrations of joy. I am told from good authority, that during the course of the late unhappy disputes, the Jews have been constant and unanimous, in their attachment to the cause of the Stadtholder,

A proof of this was yesterday given on the Exchange, just before I came to Amsterdam, Some persons having attempted to insult an English merchant on account of his wear-
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ing an orange cockade, the Jews who were present, immediately got round him, and contributed in no small degree to protect him *.

Before I conclude this letter, I cannot help mentioning one circumstance, which is literally a fact, and will convince you, that the part which England and Englishmen have taken in the affairs of Holland, makes our countrymen not be looked upon with indifference by either party. Some English officers were in the Prussian army when the city surrendered; and the magistrates of Amsterdam, when the Articles of Capitulation were settled, made it their request to the Duke of Brunswick, that he would not allow those officers to be present, when the Prussian

* An affront of this kind, offered to one of the first and most respectable persons in Amsterdam, was not overlooked; and, on a following day, two of the magistrates came to the Exchange, and before the whole assembly, made an apology to the gentleman, for what had happened.

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troops were to take possession of the gate of the city. When I heard this anecdote, I saw very plainly why my English horses, &c. were so much the subject of observation when I entered Amsterdam.



L E T T E R XV.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 16, 1787.

YESTERDAY morning, part of the troops that are to form the garrison of Amsterdam, came into the town ; and this day they were followed by a regiment of Swifs, which completes the number appointed for that purpose. These troops amount to between two and three thousand. The Duke of Brunswick, attended by his principal officers, was upon the road along which they were to pass. I joined the party, and saw them enter the town. I shall not attempt to describe their march or appearance. I was employed in observing the Duke of Brunswick. His measures had been attended with success equal to his utmost expectations. His part of the work was done, and he was
 now

now secure of “ the well-earned glory of his important enterprize.” All however who saw him while he remained at Overtoom, will I am sure agree with me, that his conduct after his victory, was not less worthy of imitation, than it had been in the earlier part of the campaign. It was marked by affability and politeness, by attention to every person of whatever rank, and, which is not always the characteristic of successful heroes, by a peculiar expression of kindness, to all who had been able to render him any service, even in the most trifling instance.

When the troops arrived at the gate of the city, the Duke returned to the Head Quarters. I went into the town, as I wished to see the appearance of Amsterdam, when it was for the first time to receive a garrison within its walls, and be forced to confess that it was not invincible. The soldiers proceeded in perfect order to the Stadthouse, near which were the quarters appointed for them. A few persons of the Orange party received them at the gate, and followed them in the

1. streets,

streets, with the usual demonstrations of joy. Their number however was not considerable; the streets were not crowded, nor were the windows of the houses filled with spectators. The greater part of the inhabitants avoided looking at what they could not have viewed but with the utmost regret; and their aversion must have been strong, since it got the better of so powerful a passion as curiosity, which would otherwise have led them to be spectators of what was never before seen, within the walls of Amsterdam.

P. S. You will be surprised when I tell you, that I have employed some time in examining that place in the city of Amsterdam, which being as well acquainted with my sentiments as you are, you would think it most unlikely that I should visit. My desire of knowing in what manner the Prussian soldiers were treated, who had been wounded on the first instant, induced me to get the better of my aversion to sick beds, and to visit the gaol house, for such is the name of the military hospital at Amsterdam. I

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wished, in case every thing were not done as it should be, to make the only return in my power, for the civilities which I had received from several of the officers, by being of use to the soldiers. I found nine Prussians in the hospital, most of whom had been wounded at Diemerbrug. I conversed with each one by means of an interpreter. I asked them, in the absence of their attendants, if they were properly treated, or if they wanted any thing that a friend could procure them. The answer which I received was always the same, and it was, that they were supplied with every thing that was necessary, and were perfectly satisfied with the care which was taken of them *.

* It is on account of this answer that I insert this postscript. I wish to render a just tribute to the attention which was paid by the patriots at Amsterdam, to their wounded enemies.

L E T T E R XVI.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 18, 1787.

TWO days ago, I took a ride to Muiden and Naarden. In going to Muiden, I went the whole way along a dike, which, in order to prevent inundations from the Zuider Zee, is made so strong, that it would require some time, and a considerable number of workmen, to destroy any part of it. Naarden is about twelve miles from Amsterdam. This place is reckoned the key of the province on the north, as Gorcum is on the south. The fortifications are sufficiently strong to entitle it to that name; and I believe the Prussians would have found it very difficult to have made themselves masters of it, by a regular

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siege.

siege. A great deal of trouble was saved them, for the commanding officer, though he had refused to surrender when summoned by one of their generals, opened the gates, as soon as he received orders to that purpose from the States of Holland. When I returned to Muiden, I looked at the sluices and fortifications. I found the former almost as curious as those at Half Wegen, and the latter were long ago made exceedingly strong, in order to defend the sluices, and prevent any army from approaching Amsterdam, by the road from Naarden.

It is at this place that the Vecht runs into the Zuider Zee; but the sea-water, and the sluices at Muiden, were not employed in making the late inundations. They were made from the Amstel and the Vecht; and were sufficient to render the meadows impassable to an army, though they did not cover the dikes in the inland part of the country. Here you will probably ask, why did not the patriots, while Muiden and Half
Wegen

Wegen were in their possession, open the sluices at those places? or why did they not, by breaking the sea dikes, overflow the country in such a manner, as to render it impossible for the Prussian army to advance along the roads, which lead to Amsterdam? These are questions which I have repeatedly put, to persons whose answers were worth attending to. Many different accounts of the matter have been given me; but the substance of what seems most to be depended on is as follows:

To inundate the country in this manner, is a thing more easy to attempt, than to carry into execution. The surface of the Zuider Zee, at high-water, is nearly on a level with the pavement in the best streets of Amsterdam; and it is a little, but not much higher, than the lower parts of the town, and the neighbouring country. In order to make such inundations as to cover the roads on the inland dikes, it would be necessary that they should be made, when there is a

spring-tide. I have heard it asserted, but I know not with what truth, that on this account, the Duke of Bruntwick approached Amsterdam at the time of the neap tides.

Another circumstance, on which the possibility of making such inundations in great measure depends, is the state of the wind. All the floods, which at different times have desolated Holland, have been occasioned by violent storms from the North-west. During the late month of September, an east wind generally prevailed, which would have added considerably to the difficulty of the undertaking. Other reasons may be mentioned, which probably contributed to prevent the patriots from making the attempt *. Inun-

* I have been told, but I do not mention it as a certain fact, that some of the patriots endeavoured to break the dike between Amsterdam and Muiden; but the country people perceived what they were doing, and drove away the workmen. If this attempt was made, I imagine it was by private individuals, not by the magistrates; and I fancy I may repeat the same observation, with regard to the sloop which I saw at Half Wegen.

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dations from the Vecht and the Amstel could be stopped whenever it was thought proper, and by means of wind-mills with which the country abounds, the water might be drawn off in no very great space of time.

It would be difficult to set bounds to an inundation which was effected by breaking the sea dikes. Great part of Amsterdam would then be laid under water, and a loss would ensue, which would be little less than ruin to all those whose support depends on the lands in this part of the Province. The distress that such a measure must necessarily occasion, would extend to a distance which it would be difficult to assign; and if it had been executed, the rest of the province of Holland, half ruined by its consequences, would have been led to consider the citizens of Amsterdam as their inveterate enemies. In case that none of these reasons should appear to you to be satisfactory, I will add one more, which is, that before the engagement on the first instant, the Patriots imagined, that, without ruining themselves or their friends,

they had done enough to render it impossible for the Prussians to get to Amsterdam ; and, after the event of that day, the great sluices were not in their possession, and they had neither time, spirit, nor counsel, to undertake a matter of such consequence as breaking the sea-dike.

When I returned from Muiden, I went by Diemerbrug and Duyvendregter Brug. I examined both those places, the approaches to which are of such a nature, that common sense, without military knowledge, is sufficient to shew, that if they were well defended, no army could possibly get possession of them.

Yesterday, I visited Ouderkerk, the only place of action, which I had not yet seen. Here, and at the villages which I looked at before, I found a few houses very much damaged by the Prussian cannon. I saw also a great number of windows which were broken entirely to pieces ; but though Ouderkerk was one of the two places which were reported
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to have been burnt to the ground (and that report was generally believed), yet I saw in this, as well as in the neighbouring villages, the cottages standing, and their inhabitants dwelling quietly in them.



L E T T E R XVII.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 23, 1787.

I TOLD you, in a former letter, that the morning after the Prussians took possession of Amstelveen, the magistrates of Amsterdam sent a message to the Duke of Brunswick, to offer to capitulate. You will perhaps wonder, that as this happened on the second, the town was not surrendered till the tenth. I will now give you the best account in my power, of what passed in the intermediate time.

In order to explain the whole of this affair, I send you a collection of papers relating to the different negotiations which have taken place, since the day when the first
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deputation was sent to the Duke of Brunswick at Leymuiden.

One of these papers contains the instructions which were at that time given by the Magistrates of Amsterdam, to the persons whom they sent to the Duke. To this I have joined the answer which they received from his Highness. (*Append. p. 75 and 77.*)

A truce being granted, Deputies were sent to the Princess of Orange, from whom they received a letter, which I also send you. (*Append. p. 78.*)

The next paper in this collection (*Append. p. 79.*) contains the terms which were demanded by the Deputies of Amsterdam, at a conference which took place between them, and a Committee of the States of Holland.

You will see by these proposals, that the Patriots were desirous the people should possess some share in the government of Amsterdam

sterdam (that is to say, in the election of Magistrates). They also required that they should not be disarmed, that the Magistrates who were in office should not be displaced, that no garrison should be admitted into the city, that orange ribbons should not be worn in it*, and that a general indemnity should be granted to all those persons who had taken refuge in Amsterdam. With many of these articles the Committee of the States refused to comply.

Other means having failed, and the truce being expired, the Duke of Brunswick attacked the out-posts of the Patriots, and forced his way to Amsterdam. (*Append. p. 81.*)

The day after the engagement, the Magistrates of the town sent a second deputation to the Duke, requesting that another

* I hope this will excuse my having so frequently mentioned orange-coloured ribbons. Nothing at first sight appears more trifling, yet it was considered as being of sufficient consequence to be made an article of a treaty.

truce might be granted, in order to renew the conferences at the Hague. With this request his Highness complied, and the negotiations were accordingly resumed.

On the third, (*Append.* p. 81.) a Proclamation was issued at Amsterdam, in which the Magistrates informed the Burghers, that they had done every thing in their power to protect them, and to obtain the most honourable conditions for the city; but that now they were obliged to yield to the necessity of the times, and agree to the resolutions of the other members of the States of Holland. A comparison of this proclamation, with the language held by the Patriots in the preceding papers, will give you some idea of the importance of the engagement at Amstelveen.

The business now appeared to be settled; but unfortunately, the Burghers were not as well convinced as the Magistrates, of the desperate situation of their affairs. They had been much deceived with regard to the different

erent actions on the 1st; they had not yet seen the Prussian troops at their gates, and, notwithstanding the Proclamation, they refused to submit. This obstinacy occasioned a further delay.

At last the victorious party were able to carry into execution their intention of not injuring those whom they had conquered. I told you, in a letter from the Hague, that, on the 6th of October, the Deputies of Amsterdam took their places in the Assembly of the States, and gave their assent to the different resolutions, which had passed since the 17th of September.

I mentioned in the same letter, what steps had been taken with regard to the persons concerned in the famous business at Schoonhoven. Besides agreeing to this measure, the principal circumstances to which Amsterdam now gave its consent, were the following: the changes which had some time before been made in the Regencies, of the capital, and many other cities, were declared to be
 illegal,

illegal, the law prohibiting all persons from wearing orange ribbons was to be repealed, the members of the patriotic societies and the auxiliary troops were to give up their arms, and Amsterdam was to consent to restore the Stadtholder to all the rights and privileges, of which he had been deprived.

In consequence of the first of these resolutions, it became necessary that the magistrates, who had been deprived of their offices, should resume them. This was done on the 8th ; but these magistrates had at first but little power, and the City was in such a situation, as made it necessary for its rulers to apply to the States of Holland, that a garrison of regular troops might be sent to Amsterdam. All matters being settled at the Hague, and the deposed magistrates having resumed their places, Articles of Capitulation were finally settled with the Duke of Brunswick on the 10th instant (Appendix p. 88.). The keys of the town were immediately delivered to his Highness, and the

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Prussian

Prussian troops took possession of the Leyden gate. Here you possibly will ask me, why did not the Duke of Brunswick cut short this whole business, by bombarding the town, and forcing it to surrender at discretion? It would not become me to pretend to answer this question, any otherwise, than from those conjectures which every one is at liberty to form, from observing the conduct of his Highness during the whole of this expedition. It appears to have been the great object of the Duke, to accomplish his purpose with as little bloodshed as possible. In pursuance of this plan, he chose to wait patiently till matters could be quietly arranged, rather than by pursuing violent measures, endanger the destruction of Amsterdam. I need not say any thing with regard to what might have ensued, if such a city had been taken by storm.

This place contained within its walls many persons of a most respectable class, who were strongly attached to the cause of
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the Prince of Orange. In such a scene it would have been difficult, or perhaps impossible, to have protected those who had the best title to the protection of the Prussians; and it would certainly have been a mortifying circumstance to the Duke of Brunswick, if his victory had been attended with the destruction of one of the first cities in Europe. Every necessary preparation was made in the Prussian camp for bombarding the town; but matters were so well managed by the Duke, that he was happily not compelled to have recourse to that extremity.

If these conjectures are well founded, I believe you will not contradict me in the following conclusion, which I assure you is the result of all that I have seen and heard, since I came into Holland. The moderation which has been shewn by the Duke of Brunswick has put the finishing stroke to the glory he acquired during the whole of the campaign; and I am fully persuaded, that in future times, when the heat of party

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disputes shall have subsided, it will be generally allowed, that this circumstance does as much honour to his prudence and humanity, as the conquest of Holland has done to his military abilities.



LETTER

L E T T E R XVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Amsterdam, Oct. 24, 1787.

I AM now preparing to quit Amsterdam ; but, before I leave it, I must trouble you with another letter, with regard to a few circumstances which have passed in this town while I have been in it. In the first place I must observe, that I have neither seen nor heard of any disturbance during the whole time I have been here, and I really believe that nothing of the kind has happened in the place ; no persons have been hurt, no houses destroyed. This may have been owing in some measure to the vigilance of the magistrates ; but the chief cause must be ascribed to the ascendancy of the Duke of Brunswick, and the respect which is paid to every order that comes from him. The magistrates were informed by his Highness, in the most express

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terms,

terms, that they must not be remiss in their endeavours to preserve the tranquillity of the town, for if they neglected to do their duty, he was resolved to do his *.

Amsterdam having agreed to all the resolutions which had been adopted by the States in favour of the Prince of Orange, the former magistrates being replaced, the satisfaction required for the insult offered to the Princess being obtained, and the garrison being admitted; the principal circumstance which remained was the disarming the Patriots. This was a business of some difficulty.

The number of these people was very considerable. Some had formed themselves into armed societies. Others had formerly made part of those bands of Volunteers, which went about the country, making al-

* I am sorry to find that my ideas on this subject were soon verified. Not long after the Duke of Brunswick had quitted the Overtoom, some disturbances happened in Amsterdam, between the friends of the two parties.

terations in the magistracies of different cities ; and some were remnants of the garriſon of Utrecht, and other Patriotic troops who had fled from all quarters to Amſterdam.

You will readily conceive that the taking away the arms of ſuch a mixed multitude could be no eaſy task, and accordingly this buſineſs went on but flowly ; ſo that the Duke of Brunſwick was more than once obliged to interpoſe his authority, by reminding the magiſtrates, and of courſe the citizens, that this was an Article of the Capitulation which muſt be obeyed.

In conſequence of a meſſage of this kind from his Highneſs, great quantities of arms were delivered up to proper perſons both yeſterday and to-day ; and, this being done, the departure of the Pruſſian troops begins to be the ſubject of converſation. In the mean time, I obſerve that a conſiderable change has taken place in the appearance of Amſterdam.

Instead of the Burghers mounting guard, and patrolling the town, I now see the lately arrived regiments doing their duty. Instead of a few orange ribbons in the streets, no person appears in any place without some ornament of that colour.

The friends of the Stadtholder, and the old Constitution, are tolerably recovered from their fears, and some joyful countenances are to be seen; but the greatest change is not made, and I believe it will not soon be made.

To convince you, when I express my belief, that most of the inhabitants of Holland are pleased with the revolution, I do not form my opinion merely from their being dressed with orange coloured ribbons; I will now tell you, that I see in Amsterdam what I have already mentioned in a few other places: I mean, that discontent still rests on the countenances of the greater part of the citizens, in a manner which no colour can possibly conceal.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIX.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Oct. 27, 1787.

HAVING satisfied my curiosity at Amsterdam, I returned here on the 25th. I find all kinds of entertainments going on at this place, and the enjoyments of pleasure seem now to succeed to the cares of business. I do not mean to say, that those who have the management of this country are idle. Quite the contrary, I assure you. They are engaged in many different concerns of great importance ; but, I hope, all tending to render as permanent as possible, the revolution which has been so happily effected.

Since the Prussians have been in possession of Amsterdam, one great cause of anxiety has been removed : another, and that certainly of no small importance to this country, is the situation of affairs in Great Britain and France. No question is more frequently asked at the Hague, than, whether war or peace is to be the consequence of the preparations at Portsmouth. Every-body allows that the conduct of our Island has been in the highest degree manly and honourable.

The effects of this conduct are such as might naturally be expected. A very respectable, and now ruling, party in the Republic, having experienced the constancy and support of Great Britain and Prussia in their adversity ; and having, by their assistance, once more obtained the management of affairs ; are desirous of being as closely connected as possible with such faithful allies.

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On the 15th of this month, the Deputies of Utrecht offered to the consideration of the States General, a proposal for a treaty of alliance between the Republic, and the Courts of London and Berlin. This proposal has been referred to the consideration of the different Provinces; and, I believe, there is little reason to doubt of their unanimous concurrence, in making overtures to that purpose.

The attention of the States of Holland is employed on an object which is not of less consequence to the internal, than what I have just mentioned is to the external security of this country. This object is the making alterations in the Regencies of the different towns of the Province.

You know in what manner a flying camp of the Patriots went from city to city; and, with an armed force, deposed those magistrates who were not friends to their party.

I de-

I described to you how this was done at Amsterdam ; and I mentioned that the proceedings in other places were nearly of the same kind.

The right of making alterations in the Regencies has sometimes, though but seldom, been exercised, and never but upon great and important occasions. On those occasions, the States of the Province agreed unanimously as to the propriety of the measure, and gave a commission to the Stadtholder, directing him to make the necessary changes.

A proposal to this effect was lately made by the Deputies of Schoonhoven, and is now under the consideration of the States ; and, certainly, if ever it were necessary, it must be so at present ; when, in consequence of the violence exercised by the Volunteers, the Regencies of many cities in this Province are as illegally constituted as the Rump
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Parliament was, when the soldiers had purged the House of Commons*.

* This proposal, after much deliberation, was unanimously agreed to on the 31st of October. A commission was accordingly given to the Stadtholder, authorizing him to make such alterations as he should think proper, in the Regencies of those cities whose Deputies compose the Assembly of the States. This was afterwards extended to the other towns of the Province, and has been carried into execution by Commissioners appointed for that purpose by the Prince.



L E T T E R XX.

DEAR SIR,

Hague, Oct. 30, 1787.

ON Saturday I went to Rotterdam, to be present at an entertainment which was given by His Majesty's agent.

The entrance to that fine town was very striking; the ships in the Meuse were decorated with the English and Orange flags blended together. I was pleased with the sight; but, I was much more pleased to find the citizens of Rotterdam shew every mark of satisfaction, at the appearance (though merely emblematical) of Union between Great Britain and the Republic.

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An elegant dinner was given at the Burgomasters; and such healths were drunk as were suited to those persons who wished the prosperity and friendship of the two nations to be for the future uninterrupted. Guns were fired at the same time from the ships in the harbour, the populace shared in the general festivity, and the evening concluded with a ball and supper. At the last, I could not help looking a good deal at decorations, which, both in design and execution, exceeded any thing of the kind that I had seen. They were expressive of the re-establishment of the constitution, and the restoration of the Stadtholder, by the united efforts of Prussia and England; and also expressive of the advantages which the three powers might derive, from mutual friendship and alliance.

On my return here, as I came through Delft, I visited the church which contains the monument of the Princes of the House of Orange,

Orange, and I also saw the house in which William the First was murdered. When I viewed the monument, I considered how very few families are recorded in the History of the World, who have in so short a period rendered such essential service to their country; and, it is very remarkable, that not one person has been laid in that tomb, who has not left a name deservedly beloved by every true friend of his country.

William the First was undoubtedly one of the greatest men of whom any age or country can boast. He was murdered in a house which stands in the middle of Delft. He had just dined, and was scarcely risen from table, when he was shot as he was giving a passport to the assassin.

When we talk of the misfortunes attending the present times, let us reflect on those of the 16th Century, when scarce any man could be remarkable for any thing good or great, but he was in danger of falling by
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the hands of a Ruffian or a Fanatic. Nor could they remain in safety who were placed in less elevated situations.

What a spectacle did this country exhibit two Centuries ago ! What the Spaniards then did, we know but too well ; and, I believe, you will not blame me, if, judging from that conduct, I venture to say, that if Holland had been conquered by the Duke of Alva in the 16th Century, as it has been by the Duke of Brunswick in the 18th, the country would have exhibited a scene, the direct reverse of its present condition.

These ideas employed me till I came to the Hague, where the Duke of Brunswick was just arrived. You will naturally conclude that his presence occasioned a jubilee in this place. Yesterday evening, he appeared with the Court, at the theatre. How the actors performed was of no great consequence, for every person was employed in looking at the Duke ; and I could not help reflecting

reflecting on that greatest of all pleasures, which his Highness must now enjoy, the pleasure of having contributed, as much as lay in the power of one man, to restore to a nation its laws, its constitution, and its happiness.

* On the 31st of October, the Duke of Brunswick returned to the Overtoom, and about a fortnight afterwards went into Germany. The greater part of the Prussian army quitted Holland in the course of the month of November, but a detachment of about 4000 men remained some time longer at the request of the States. The rest of the letters in this collection, consist of little more than observations on the causes of the late troubles in Holland; and, as I find on perusing them, that they contain few *Facts* which are not generally known, I do not venture to lay them before the public.



A P P E N D I X.



A P P E N D I X.

No. I.

LETTRE de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'Orange,
à L. N. P. les Seigneurs Etats de la Province de
GUELDRES.

NOBLES ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS !

JE n'ai pas voulu manquer de Vous donner connoissance
de mon départ pour la HAYE, où je compte de m'ar-
rêter quelques jours.

Aiant les mêmes intérêts que le Prince mon Epoux, qui
ne peut se rendre à la HAYE, pour les raisons connues,
J'ai cru que ma présence pourroit contribuer en quelque
chose à la conservation de la Patrie, & au rétablissement de
la Constitution. Il n'y a que cette intention salutaire qui
m'ait déterminée à entreprendre ce voyage. Dieu veuille
qu'il ne soit pas entierement infructueux.

Je suis avec la considération due,

Nobles et Puissans Seigneurs,

Votre très humble Servante,

(Etoit signé)

WILHELMINE.

Nimegue, ce 28 de Juin 1787.

No. II.

LÈTTRÉ de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE
à Mr. le Bourgue-maitre de la Ville de Nimegue.

MONSIEUR !

UN véritable attachement pour les intérêts de la Patrie,
& pour ceux de ma Maison, qui en sont inséparables,
me fait entreprendre le voyage de la HAYE pour un petit
nombre de jours. Je n'ai pas voulu manquer de vous en
informer ; & Je suis avec estime,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble Servante,

(Signé) WILHELMINE.

Nimegue, ce 28 Juin 1787.

No. III.

RAPPORT de Mr. le Lieut. Col. de STAMFORT, à
S. A. Mgr. le Prince d'ORANGE & de NASSAU,
en date de NIMEGUE, le 1^r Juillet 1787, fait de
maniere à pouvoir être, en tout tems, confirmé
par un ferment solemnel.

MONSEIGNEUR !

V. A. S. m'ayant ordonné de Lui faire un Récit fidelle
de ce qui est arrivé à S. A. R. son auguste Epouse,
à l'occasion de l'empêchement qu'Elle a rencontrê dans
son voyage à la HAYE, auprès de SCHOONHOVEN, je vais
satisfaire à cet ordre, avec toute l'exacritude possible, sans
omettre

omettre ou altérer la moindre circonstance de cet événement aussi singulier que peu attendu.

Il étoit environ 4 heures de l'après midi, lorsque S. A. R. arriva au bord du LECK près de SCHOONHOVEN. En entrant dans le bac pour passer cette rivière, nous vîmes la rive opposée, bordée d'une foule d'habitans de la ville, qui nous attendoient à notre passage; & Mr. de BENTINCK m'avertit qu'il découvroit plus loin quelques soldats de *Vry-Corps*, qui fermoient une barrière, par laquelle il comptoit que nous devions passer, pour entrer dans SCHOONHOVEN. Nous convinmes que, comme il y avoit apparence qu'ils nous demanderoient qui nous étions, de ne leur point cacher la vérité, nous flâtant qu'au nom de S. A. R. ils nous ouvreroient d'abord la barrière. Nous ne nous trompâmes point: Arrivés près de la barrière nous vîmes un anspessade & trois francs-armés venant à notre rencontre, pour nous demander, d'un air très embarrassé, nos noms, d'où nous venions & où nous comptions aller. Au ton ferme avec lequel Mr. BENTINCK satisfit à ces questions & avec lequel je demandai qu'on ne fît pas attendre Madame la Princesse, ils allèrent d'abord faire rapport à la garde, & un moment après on nous ouvrit. Nous vîmes, en entrant, la garde sous les armes, laquelle fit à S. A. R. les honneurs militaires du mieux qu'elle put; & nous nous félicitâmes, Mr. de BENTINCK & moi, d'avoir franchi ce mauvais pas, en en tirant un bon augure pour le reste de notre voyage; mais nous ne tardâmes pas à nous appercevoir que nous étions loin de notre compte.

Nous avons continué notre route, jusqu'à environ une bonne lieue au delà de SCHOONHOVEN, lorsque nous nous vîmes

vimes tout-à-coup arrêtés par une nouvelle troupe de *Vry-Corps*, dont le chef nous fît à peu près les mêmes questions, qu'on nous avoit faites à *SCHOONHOVEN*. Nous y repondimes de la même maniere; mais la reception qu'on nous fit, fût très différente. Le Commandant de cette troupe détacha un de ses gens pour en faire rapport au Chef de la troupe principale, qui s'étoit arrêté un peu plus en arriere; & là-dessus celui-ci avança & nous dit, qu'il avoit ordre de ne laisser passer personne, sans une permission expresse du Commandant du Cordon. Cet ordre, repliqua Mr. de BENTINCK, ne fauroit concerner Mde. la Princesse d'ORANGE, qui n'est ici qu'avec une très petite suite; & vous ne tarderez pas à en être convaincu, si vous voulez avoir la bonté de faire avertir sur le champ Mr. votre Commandant, de arrivée de S. A. R. en ce lieu. Comme je croiois m'appercevoir, qu'il étoit embarrassé sur ce qu'il devoit faire, & que j'allois lui dire de se dépêcher, nous vimes arriver un détachement de cavalerie d'environ 30 Maîtres, du Régiment de HESSE-PHILIPSTHAL, qui s'arrêta, lorsqu'il eut joint la Troupe des Francs-armés. L'Officier à qui nous venions de parler nous quitta d'abord & entra en pour-parler avec le maréchal de logis; mais ils étoient trop éloignés, pour que nous pussions entendre ce qu'ils disoient. Leur conversation fut longue, & l'impatience me prenant, je priai Mr. de BENTINCK de descendre, pour s'informer, s'il n'y avoit point d'Officiers à ce détachement, et au cas qu'il y en eut un, de le faire avancer, afin que nous pussions nous expliquer avec lui. Mr. de BENTINCK déféra à mon avis, & joignit la troupe.

Je sortis en même tems de notre voiture pour informer S. A. R. de ce qui se passoit, quand je me vis brusquement
arrêté

arrêté par un des Franks-armés, qui me présentant le bout de son fusil, me dit de rester à ma place. Mon ami, lui dis-je, vous ne savez ce que vous faites ; le métier des armes vous est inconnu. Je n'ai d'autre dessein, que celui d'expliquer à Mde. la Princesse, qui est dans ce carrosse, la raison pourquoi nous nous arrêtons si longtems ; & si vous craignez que je ne vous échappe, vous pouvez y aller avec moi. Là-dessus je voulois passer outre, mais il m'arrêta une seconde fois, en me criant, qn'il s'y opposoit absolument. Il fallut céder : Je remontai dans ma chaise, indigné du procédé de ce misérable, & je remis à leur place une paire de pistolets, qui s'étoient dérangés. Qu'avez-vous là, me demanda mon brave ?—N'as-tu jamais vu de pistolets, lui dis je ? Je t'avertis qu'ils sont chargés. Il ne m'en demanda pas davantage, & un moment après je vis arriver Mr. de BENTINCK avec l'Officier commandant du détachement, qui s'étoit trouvé, je ne sais pourquoi, à la queue de sa troupe. Mr. de BENTINCK me dit, qu'il n'étoit que trop vrai, qu'il y avoit ordre de ne pas nous laisser continuer notre route. Je priai l'Officier d'approcher avec nous du carrosse de Mde. la Princesse, & il répéta lui-même l'ordre qu'il disoit lui avoir été donné par le général VAN RYssel, Commandant du Cordon. S. A. R. le pria d'envoyer un exprès à ce général, pour lui notifier son arrivée, ajoutant qu'elle étoit bien persuadée, qu'il ne mettroit point d'empêchement à son voyage. Il y consentit avec quelque peine ; mais il refusa tout net l'offre de Mr. de BENTINCK, qui voulut faire partir l'exprès dans une de nos chaises, & l'accompagner, afin de presser son retour : Tout ce que nous pûmes obtenir de cet Officier, digne par ses manieres rustres, de servir avec des *Vry-Corps*, fût, qu'il permit à Mr. de BENTINCK, d'écrire quelques

quelques lignes au général VAN RYssel avec lesquelles il fît partir un Cavalier de sa Troupe.

J'observai ensuite que comme il y avoit 3 lieues du lieu où nous étions, au quartier de VAN RYssel, il ne convenoit point de faire attendre Mde. la Princesse au milieu du chemin, jusqu'au retour de l'express ; & je priai l'officier de nous mener à quelque endroit voisin où S. A. R. pût être plus à son aise. Il y consentit encore, et on se prépara à partir. Une partie de la cavalerie & des Franks-armés passa derrière les voitures, faisant un vacarme, comme j'imagine que pourroient faire des voleurs de grand chemin, qui auroient fait quelque bonne capture. Je ne pus remarquer la moindre discipline ou subordination dans toute cette Troupe, à l'exception de celle que je vis observer par le Lieutenant de Cavalerie vis-à-vis de l'Officier des Franks-armés ; il ne lui parla que le chapeau à la main, & nous vîmes clairement qu'il étoit entièrement dépendant de ses ordres, quoique celui-ci ne le fut en aucune manière de sa misérable troupe. Celle-ci se plaça devant & derrière les voitures, comme elle le jugea à propos. Dans cette bagarre, un des chevaux du carosse de Mde. la Princesse prit l'épouvante, & je vis le moment où tous ensemble alloient faire verser la voiture dans un des fossés, qui bordoient de chaque côté le chemin. Mr. de BENTINCK & moi nous sautâmes de notre voiture pour courir au danger, mais les *Vry-Corps* eurent l'insolence de nous en empêcher. Cependant, les gens de Mde. la Princesse parvinrent à dégager les chevaux qui s'étoient embarrassés dans les traits, et nous partîmes enfin, conduits comme des prisonniers, sans savoir où l'on nous menoit. Ce n'est que chemin faisant que nous apprîmes, qu'on

nous

nous conduisoit à un endroit appelé la GOVERWELSE-SLUYS, où nous arrivâmes à 7 heures du soir. Mde. la Princesse avec sa suite fut conduite au quartier du commandant des *Vry-Corps*, qui étoit absent. L'Officier franc-armé de la Troupe, qui nous avoit escortés, nous fit tous entrer dans une même chambre, & les gens de S. A. R. dans une autre, qui y touchoit. On plaça des sentinelles à toutes les portes, & on prit les précautions les plus ridicules, au point de faire accompagner par 3 soldats l'épée à la main, une des femmes de chambre de S. A. R. qui avoit besoin d'aller à un endroit, où peut-être jamais femme n'a encore été escortée de la sorte. L'Officier notre Conducteur fut, au reste, poli à sa maniere. Il resta d'abord l'épée nue à la main dans la chambre de Mde. la Princesse; mais quelqu'un de la suite de S. A. R. lui ayant fait remarquer que cela n'étoit nullement convenable, il ne fit point difficulté de la rengainer. Il poussa la politesse jusqu'à offrir à S. A. R. & à sa suite, du vin, de la biere, & mêmes des pipes & du tabac, s'asseyant, au reste, sans façons à côté de Mde. la Princesse, les jambes croisées. S. A. R. lui pardonna de bon cœur ce manque de respect, voyant bien que c'étoit d'ailleurs une brute d'une assez bonne espece, que le hazard avoit fait, de cordonnier ou tailleur, Capitaine de *Vry-Corps*.

« Au bout de quelques heures, Mde. la Princesse reçut la visite de la commission des Etats de HOLLANDE, qui réside à WOERDEN. La suite de S. A. R. passa dans la chambre voisine; mais je dois remarquer que durant l'entretien que ces Mrs. eurent avec Mde. la Princesse, ils garderent constamment l'Officier du *Vry-Corps* dans la chambre; d'où je conclus, qu'ils regardoient S. A. R. comme

comme leur prisonniere. Ces Mrs. débiterent par demander à S. A. R. le motif de son voiage & si elle avoit intention de se rendre à la HAYE. Elle satisfit à ces demandes, & ne leur cacha pas sa surprise de ce qui lui étoit arrivé. Ils lui firent alors des excuses, & tâcherent de pallier leur conduite, finissant par lui dire, qu'ils avoient été obligés de se tenir à leurs ordres, qui étoient des plus stricts; qu'ils avoient dépêché un Exprès aux Etats pour leur donner connoissance de l'évenement, & demander des ordres ultérieurs; que jusqu'au retour de cet Exprès il leur étoit impossible de lui laisser continuer sa route, & qu'ils la prioient de choisir quelque ville prochaine pour y passer la nuit. Ils lui proposerent WOERDEN ou SCHOONHOVEN. S. A. R. avoit d'abord proposé GOUDA qui étoit la plus voisine; mais comme ils avoient fait beaucoup de difficultés & qu'ils y craignoient une émeute, S. A. R. n'avoit point insisté, afin de leur prouver la sincérité des assurances qu'Elle leur avoit données. Elle avoit aussi pensé à rebrousser chemin jusqu'à LEERDAM; mais la difficulté de se procurer les chevaux nécessaires fut cause qu'Elle se détermina enfin pour SCHOONHOVEN, où deux Mrs. de la Commission avec une escorte de cavalerie l'accompagnerent.

Il étoit environ minuit lorsque nous y arrivâmes. S. A. R. écrivit sur le champ au *Conseiller Pensionnaire* & au *Greffier*; & ayant attendu envain toute la journée du 29 une réponse des états de HOLLANDE, non seulement à ses lettres, mais aussi à l'exprès de la Commission, elle jugea que le meilleur parti à prendre étoit de retourner à NIMEGUE. Elle quitta le 30, à 4 heures du matin la ville de SCHOONHOVEN, après y avoir passé tranquillement 36 heures,

heures, sans chercher à surmonter les obstacles que l'on suscitoit à son départ, parceque n'ayant eu rien à se reprocher, n'ayant eu qu'un dessein louable, Elle ne craignoit rien, & étoit parfaitement résignée à tout ce qui pouvoit Lui arriver. S. A. R. reçut enfin les réponses de la HOLLANDE qu'elle avoit si longtems attendues, au moment que nous allions repasser le *Leck*; & vous savez Monseigneur, que le contenu de ces lettres n'étoit point de nature à engager S. A. R. à demeurer plus longtems sur le territoire de la HOLLANDE. Pendant notre séjour à SCHOONHOVEN nous apprîmes que le Rhingrave avoit fait courir le bruit, que le prince marchoit avec un corps de 10 à 12 mille hommes vers cette ville, & qu'il avoit fait avancer un détachement de Houzards sous prétexte de venir à son secours, mais que le Magistrat lui en avoit refusé l'entrée, disant qu'il répondoit pour la tranquillité de la ville. Plaisante idée de vouloir fair accroire que V. A. S. marchoit avec une armée, dont son Auguste épouse faisoit l'Avant-garde," *J'ai l'honneur, &c. &c.*

No. IV.

LETTRE de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE à Mr. FAGEL, Greffier de L. H. P. en date de SCHOONHOVEN, le 28 Juin, & expédié le 29 à trois heures du matin.

" **L** E cas singulier qui m'arrive aujourd'hui, m'a fait écrire la lettre ci-jointe au grand Pensionnaire de HOLLANDE, dans laquelle je lui fais connoître les raisons de mon voiage & le prie de les mettre sous les yeux de L. N. & G. P."

" J'ai

“ J’ai cru devoir vous en donner en même tems connoissance, pour vous mettre en état d’en instruire L. H. P. soit dans la besogne, soit à l’assemblée, comme vous le jugerez le plus convenable. Je ne ferai aucune reflexion sur ce qui s’est passé. Tous ceux qui me connoissent, comprendront facilement combien je suis sensiblement touchée d’un événement qui répond si peu à mes sentimens & à mon but.”

“ Cependant j’espère me voir dans peu en état de poursuivre ce dernier, avec tout le zèle & toute la fidélité, qu’exigent de moi les vrais intérêts de la chère Patrie, & de ma maison, le maintien de la constitution, & le rétablissement du repos & de la bonne harmonie. C’est dans ces sentimens, que je suis, Mr. avec une parfaite estime, &c.”

No. V.

LETTRE de S. A. R. à Mr. Van BLEYSWICK, Conseiller-Pensionnaire de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE, écrite du même endroit & de la même date.

MONSIEUR !

“ **L**E fouhait le plus ardent de mon cœur dans ce moment affreux, où se trouve la République, & où même le Prince STADHOUDER-HEREDITAIRE est empêché de venir en HOLLANDE, est de travailler par ma médiation à prévenir une guerre civile, dont nous sommes menacés, & de terminer tous les différends sur les principes
de

de la constitution établie. Voilà les seules & véritables raisons, qui m'ont déterminée à entreprendre un voiage à la HAIE, lequel je me flattois de tenir secret jusqu'à mon arrivée à la maison du BOIS, d'où j'aurois communiqué mon but à L. N. & G. P. et aux Etats-Généraux."

" Je n'aurois jamais cru voir échouer ce but si salulaire, même avant que je fusse en état d'y employer tous mes efforts."

" Vous savez, Monsieur, que je suis empêchée de continuer mon voiage; j'espere cependant, que ce retard n'éloignera pas pour toujours la chose : Mais j'ai jugé nécessaire de vous faire connoître les véritables motifs de mon arrivée en HOLLANDE, en vous priant d'en instruire L. N. & G. P. & de me croire avec toute l'estime, que vous méritez, Monsieur, &c."

No. VI.

LETTRE de S. A. Monseigneur le Prince STAD-
HOUDER à L. H. P. les Seigneurs ETATS GENE-
RAUX des PROVINCES-UNIES.

HAUTS ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS !

" **D**ANS ce moment nous venons d'être informés avec certitude, que S. A. R. notre très chere Epouse, a été arrêtée dans son voyage de NIMEGUE à la HAYE, aux environs de SCHOONHOVEN, par une troupe de bourgeois armés & de militaires; & qu'Elle a ensuite été re-
menée

menée dans la susdite ville, où elle est arrêtée & gardée par ordre de Mrs. les Députés des Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE.

“ Il seroit inutile de mettre sous les yeux de V. H. P. combien nous avons été frappés & sensiblement affectés d’une action si violente, commise envers une Personne auguste, & qui nous est si chère. V. H. P. comprennent aisément, que nous ne pouvons qu’être très sensibles à une flétrissure, faite à nous, à notre maison, & à la personne d’une Princesse Royale; ainsi nous attendons avec une pleine confiance, que V. H. P. voudront bien prendre de telles mesures, que S. A. R. soit relâchée le plutôt possible. Nous nous flattons aussi, que V. H. P. ne pouvant être indifférentes à nos intérêts & à notre honneur, à ceux de notre très chère Epouse & à ceux de nos enfans, voudront bien concourir à effectuer que la flétrissure faite à la personne de notre Epouse soit immédiatement réparée; de même que nous ne pouvons attendre, que les Maisons Royales, auxquelles notre Epouse & nous, sommes alliés de si près, se montrent indifférentes à une façon d’agir aussi violente.” Sur quoi &c.

Amersfoort, le 29 Juin, 1787.

No. VII.

REPOSE de Mr. le Greffier FAGEL à S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d’ORANGE, en date de la HAIE, le 29 Juin 1787, le soir à 10 Heures.

MADAME!

A IANT été honoré ce matin d’une lettre de V. A. R. datée de SCHOONHOVEN le 28 de ce mois, à laquelle étoit jointe copie de celle adressée à Mr. le
Conseiller-

Conseiller-Pensionnaire, au sujet du cas aussi inattendu que singulier, qui venoit d'arriver à V. A. R. j'ai cru devoir la communiquer à l'assemblée de L. H. P. qui ont pris la résolution d'en écrire immédiatement aux états de HOLLANDE, pour les prier de mettre ordre au plutôt, pour qu'on laisse poursuivre le voiage de V. A. R. sans aucun empêchement, afin d'effectuer les vues salutaires, que V. A. R. a eues dans ce voiage, comme V. A. R. le verra par la copie de la lettre des ETATS-GENERAUX aux Etats de HOLLANDE.

Les ETATS-GENERAUX s'étant rassemblés de nouveau ce soir à sept heures, pour savoir le résultat des délibérations en HOLLANDE, Mrs. de HOLLANDE ont déclaré, qu'ayant pris les lettres de V. A. R. *ad referendum*, & s'étant réservé la libre délibération de leurs principaux, ils en avoient délibéré ce matin; mais que quelques membres devant consulter leurs villes, ils ne pourroient être prêts que mardi; sur quoi L. H. P. ont résolu d'écrire de nouveau, une lettre à la Province de Hollande, comme V. A. R. le verra par la Copie ci-jointe.

Je la supplie d'agréer les assurances du profond respect & du parfait dévouement, avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Madame,

'De votre Altesse Royale,

Le très humble & très obeissant Serviteur,

H. FAGEL.

No. VIII.

No. VIII.

EXTRAIT du Régître de Résolutions de L. H. P.
 les ETATS-GENERAUX des PROVINCES-UNIES.
 Du Vendredi 29 Juin 1787.

LE Greffier FAGEL a communiqué à l'Assemblée une Lettre de S. A. R. datée de SCHOONHOVEN du 28 de ce mois, qu'il a reçue par un exprès, avec une lettre de sa part pour le Grand-Pensionnaire de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, au sujet d'un cas singulier qui Lui est arrivé le dit jour, ainsi qu'il est dit dans la lettre & piece annexes.

FIAT INSERTIO.

Sur quoi aiant été délibéré, il a été trouvé bon qu'en attendant des informations ultérieures, au sujet de ce cas, aussi inopiné que singulier, auquel L. H. P. témoignent prendre la plus vive part, on enverra copie de la lettre susdite, & de la piece annexe à L. N. & G. P. pendant la tenue même de l'Assemblée, avec priere de donner au plutôt, & sans aucun délai, les ordres nécessaires, pour que S. A. R. puisse continuer son voiage; & que tous les obstacles qui pourroient encore avoir lieu à cet égard, soient d'abord levés; afin que S. A. R. puisse effectuer les efforts salutaires dont Elle parle dans sa lettre; ce dont L. H. P. demandent à L. N. & G. P. d'être informées sans délai.

D'accord avec le Régître.

No. IX.

LETTRE de L. H. P. les ETATS-GENERAUX des
PROVINCES-UNIES, du 29 Juin 1787, aux Etats
de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE.

NOBLES ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS!

NOTRE Greffier nous a communiqué ce matin une
Lettre de S. A. R. datée de SCHOONHOVEN, le 28
de ce mois, qu'il avoit reçue par un exprès, avec une
lettre adressée au Conseiller-Pensionnaire de HOLLANDE
& de WESTFRISE, au sujet d'un cas singulier qui lui est
survenu le dit jour. En attendant d'autres informations
au sujet de cet événement inopiné, au quel nous prenons
la plus vive part, nous nous croyons obligés d'envoyer à
V. N. P. pendant notre assemblée, une copie de la lettre
et de la piece annexe, et de prier V. N. P. de vouloir don-
ner au plutôt & sans aucun délai, les ordres nécessaires,
pour que S. A. R. puisse continuer son voyage sans em-
pêchemens ultérieurs, & que tous les obstacles, qui pour-
roient encore subsister à cet égard, soient immédiatement
levés, afin que S. A. R. puisse effectuer les salutaires ef-
forts, dont Elle parle dans sa lettre, ce dont nous prions
V. N. P. de nous informer au plutôt; *Sur quoi nous repo-
sant, nous, &c. &c. &c.*

No. X.

EXTRAIT du Régître des Résolutions de L. H. P.
les ETATS-GENERAUX des PROVINCES UNIES; du
Vendredi 29 Juin 1787, le Soir à 7 Heures.

MEssieurs les Députés de la Province de HOLLANDE
& de WESTFRISE, pressés de répondre à la lettre
écrite par L. H. P. aux Seigneurs Etats leurs Principaux,

C

ont

ont déclaré qu'ils continuoient à persister dans leur avis, donné ce matin, par lequel ils ont pris *ad referendum* la lettre de S. A. R. & se sont réservé la libre délibération des Seigneurs Etats leurs Principaux, dont plusieurs membres s'étoient engagés de faire savoir au plutôt les intentions de leurs Villes.

Sur quoi aiant été délibéré, on a trouvé bon de donner à connoître à Messieurs les Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, par une seconde lettre, que L. H. P. sans vouloir se mêler en aucune maniere dans les droits qui appartiennent aux susdits Seigneurs Etats, en tant que Souverains territoriaux, les prient cependant de la maniere la plus amicale, en réitérant les instances déjà faites aujourd'hui, de vouloir réfléchir sérieusement sur les suites dangereuses, que pourra occasionner au dehors, au désavantage de la République, la démarche faite, en mettant obstacle au voyage de S. A. R. à la HAYE, et que L. H. P. au cas que les Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE ne satisfassent point à leurs instances, laissent pour le compte de la Province de HOLLANDE, les conséquences de ce qui pourroit en arriver à la République.

Messieurs les députés de la Province de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE ont continué à persister dans la déclaration, qu'ils avoient donnée.

Messieurs les Députés des 6 autres Provinces ont pris par copie *ad referendum*, tout ce qui a été proposé, fait & conclu là-dessus, ce matin & ce soir.

D'accord avec le susdit Régître.

No. XI.

LETTRE des ETATS de HOLLANDE & de WEST-
FRISE à S. A. R.

MADAME !

LA Lettre de V. A. R. écrite à SCHOONHOVEN, le 28 de ce mois à Monsieur le Conseiller-Pensionnaire, & relative à l'empêchement que V. A. R. a éprouvé dans son voyage à la HAYE, nous ayant été communiquée pour en délibérer, nous avons trouvé bon de répondre par la presente à V. A. R. que la pluralité des membres de notre Assemblée a jugé nécessaire de prendre ladite Lettre *ad referendum*, & de la porter sous les yeux de Messieurs leurs principaux, pour en délibérer & s'en expliquer au plutôt, en sorte qu'il n'a pu encore être formé de Conclusion à ce sujet. *Surquoi, &c.*

No. XII.

LETTRE des Députés des Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE pour la Défense de la Province, &c. à Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE.

MADAME !

NOUS étant engagés de donner immédiatement connoissance à V. A. de la résolution de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, nos respectables Commettans, sur ce que nous avons fait avant-hier, relativement au voiage de V. A. R. à la maison du Bois, nous avons cru devoir communiquer sans

délai à V. A. R. que bien que nous n'ayons pas obtenu une connoissance légale de leur résolution sur ce sujet, nous sommes néanmoins informés, que les membres de l'assemblée de L. N. & G. P. ont pris *ad referendum* la lettre que nous leur avons adressée, ainsi que celles que V. A. R. à écrites au Conseiller-Pensionnaire de cette province & au Greffier FAGEL, afin de mettre cette affaire délicate sous les yeux de leurs principaux, & que la conduite que nous avons tenue a été approuvée. Sur quoi après avoir recommandé V. A. R. à la protection du Tout-Puissant, nous avons l'honneur d'être avec un profond respect,

Madame,

De V. A. R.

Les bons Amis,

Les Députés de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs
Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, pour
la Défense de cette Province et de la ville
d'UTRECHT,

Woerden,

Par ordre des mêmes,

ce 30 Juin 1787.

H. COSTERUS, Secrétaire.

No. XIII.

EXTRAIT des Résolutions des Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, prises dans l'assemblée de L. N. & G. P. Vendredi 29 Juin 1787.

RÉçu une lettre de Mrs. les Commissaires pour la défense de cette Province & de la ville d'UTRECHT, écrite à WOERDEN le 28 de ce mois, & contenant les raisons du retardement, apporté au voiage de S. A. R.

pour

pour se rendre ici, ainsi que le détail de leurs procédés en cette occasion ; le tout inferé ci-après.

“ N. G. & P. S. Sur la nouvelle, reçue ce matin, qu’il avoit été ordonné des relais pour un certain nombre de chevaux à HAESTRECHT & à NIEUPOORT, & que le bruit s’y étoit répandu, qu’il alloit y passer une personne de très grande considération, bruit qui caufoit déjà quelque mouvement parmi les bourgeois & habitans du plat-pais, nous que V. N. & G. P. ont chargés non seulement du soin de la défense de la province, mais aussi de faire échouer toutes les trames secrètes ou publiques des ennemis de cette province ou de ses alliés, avons jugé nécessaire d’envoier de ce côté là, communication préalable sur ce eue, avec le général-major *van Ryffel*, un détachement d’un officier & de 20 Cavaliers de HESSE-PHILIPSTAHL, en leur donnant l’ordre exprès “ d’arrêter & d’interroger précisément “ tous les passagers ; et, s’il se présentoit quelque personne “ dont la venue en cette province pourroit y être préjudici- “ able pour la tranquillité publique, de la retenir, sans con- “ fideration de qui que ce soit, & de la garder aussi long- “ tems que nous serons à même de donner des ordres “ ultérieurs à ce sujet.”

“ Cette précaution a eu pour suite N. G. & P. S. que S. A. R. Mde. la Princesse d’ORANGE, passant de ce côté-là, a été arrêtée dans son voiage par un détachement de bourgeois de la ville de GOUDE, posté au GOEJAN-VERWELLE SLUYS, & muni d’ordres tendant à la même fin. A peine en avons-nous été informés par exprès, que nous nous sommes rendus au GOEJAN-VERWELLE-SLUYS, où se trouvoit S. A. R. afin d’apprendre de bouche, de la part

de cette Princesse, le but de ce voyage inattendu : Surquoi S. A. R. a donné à connoître : “ Qu’elle avoit dessein de se rendre à la HAYE ; qu’elle venoit avec les meilleurs intentions du monde ; & que la triste situation des affaires de ce pais, ou l’on avoit déjà vu s’enflammer le feu de la guerre civile, dont les progrès ultérieurs la menaçoient, l’avoit engagée à faire cette démarche. “ Nous n’avons pu, N. G. & P. S. qu’ajouter foi à ces protestations de la Princesse. Cependant quelques circonstances, dont nous avons été informés, nous ont fait juger, qu’il étoit indispensablement nécessaire” de prier S. A. R. de ne point continuer pour le présent son voyage ; mais de s’arrêter jusqu’à ce que nous serions informés des intentions de V. N. & G. P.

“ Nous avons pensé, qu’une populace aveugle, n’étant pas convaincue de ces vues pures de S. A. R. auroit très-aisément pu, à cette arrivée imprévue, faire rétentir partout les cris de la sedition, & passer à des extrémités dangereuses. Les avis que nous avons reçus d’attroupemens de la populace & d’habitans du platpais, en deça de la ville de GOUDA ; comme aussi ce que nous apprirent les personnes mêmes de la suite de la Princesse, touchant le grand nombre des personnes qui s’étoit rassemblée à SCHOONHOVEN ; enfin quelques nouvelles particulières, que nous reçûmes en même tems de la HAYE & d’autres parts, nous ont obligés à persuader S. A. R. de suspendre son voyage projeté, jusqu’à ce que nous aurions reçu les ordres de V. N. & G. P. et jusqu’à ce qu’on eût le tems d’assurer le repos public. C’est aussi, après que nous avons exposé à S. A. R. le danger de son séjour dans la ville de GOUDA, que S. A. R. cédant à cette persuasion, a préféré de se rendre à LEER-

DAM,

DAM, en nous assurant, qu'Elle y resteroit aussi longtems que V. N. & G. P. auroient fait connoître leurs intentions à S. A. R.: & deux membres de notre commission ont accompagné Mde. la Princesse avec une escorte de Cavaliers, jusqu'à SCHOONHOVEN. Nous nous flattons que V. N. & G. P. voudront bien honorer de leur approbation cette démarche, que nous avons faite pour le bien de l'Etat, & avec les meilleures intentions du monde. Au reste, priant le ciel de bénir les personnes & les résolutions importantes de V. N. & G. P. nous avons l'honneur de nous signer avec un profond respect &c."

(Signé) Les Commissaires pour la Défense de cette
Province & de la ville d'UTRECHT.

(Plus bas) Par leur ordre.

(Signé) H. COSTERUS, Secrétaire.

(Ici se trouvent inférées la Lettre de S. A. R. à M.
le Conseiller-Pensionnaire, (Voyez No. V.) la
Missive des ETATS-GENERAUX, (No. VIII.) & la
Lettre de S. A. R. à Mr. le Greffier FAGEL,
(No. IV.)

SUrquoi délibéré, & copies des fus-dites Lettres aiant été demandées par Mrs. les Députés des Villes de *Dordrecht, Haerlem, Leyde, Amsterdam, Goude, Rotterdam, Gorinchem, Schiedam, Schoonhoven, Alkmaer, Munnikendam, & Purmerende*, pour s'informer au plutôt des intentions de Mrs. leurs Commettans à ce sujet, il a de plus été trouvé bon "d'approuver la conduite, tenue en cette occasion" par Mrs. les Commissaires pour la défense de cette Province

“ vince & de la ville d'*Utrecht*. ” De plus arrêté, “ qu’en
 “ reponie à la lettre, que S. A. R. a écrite au Conseiller-
 “ Pensionnaire, il lui fera écrit de la part de L. N. & G. P.
 “ que, la fufdite Lettre aiant été portée à la connoiffance
 “ & aux délibérations de L. N. & G. P. la pluralité des
 “ membres avoit jugé néceffaire d’en prendre copie pour la
 “ porter au plutôt à la délibération de Mrs. leurs Com-
 “ mettans ; de forte que jusqu’à présent l’on n’avoit pu
 “ rien conclure à fe fujet. ” Et fera envoyé extrait de la
 présente réfolution à Mrs. les Commiffaires fufdits pour
 leur fervir d’information.

Mrs. de l’Ordre-Equeftre & les Nobles ont déclaré,
 “ qu’ils étoient absolument prêts à concourir à faciliter,
 “ par tous les moyens poffibles, la venue de S. A. R. à la
 “ HAYE ; & qu’ils étoient également difpofés à entrer avec
 “ Elle dans telle Négociation, qui feroit la plus propre à
 “ applanir les différends fubfiftans. ” Ont déclaré de plus
 Mrs. de l’Ordre-Equeftre, “ qu’ils dés approuvoient très-
 “ hautement la conduite de Mrs. les cinq Commiffaires
 “ fufdits, fans que néanmoins, par ce désaveu formel,
 “ ils vouluffent entrer dans les mérites de la dite Commif-
 “ fion, qu’ils n’ont jamais reconnue ; proteftant de nou-
 “ veau contre elle, ainfi que contre tout le traitement de
 “ cette affaire, de la maniere la plus forte, laiffant les fuites
 “ qui pourroient en réfulter, pour le compte de ceux qui
 “ y ont donné lieu, ou qui y ont concouru, en fe réfervant
 “ telle annotation ultérieure & telles démarches, qu’ils
 “ jugeront néceffaires. ”

Mrs. les Députés des Villes de *Delft*, la *Brille*, *Edam* &
Medemblik, ont déclaré, “ qu’ils étoient prêts à contribuer

“ ce

“ ce qui dependoit d’eux, afin de faciliter le voyage de S. A. R. pour se rendre ici, ainsi qu’il est dit à la fin de la susdite lettre.” La pluralité des membres aiant néanmoins jugé à propos de prendre le tout *ad referendum*, en approuvant la conduite de Mrs. les Commissaires de L. N. & G. P. à *Woerden*, ils ont protesté contre ; & ils en ont laissé les suites pour le compte des dits membres.

Mrs. les Députés des Villes de *Hoorn* & d’*Enkhuysen* se sont joints à la susdite Annotation ; mais ils n’ont point concouru à l’approbation de la conduite de Mrs. les Commissaires.

Mrs. les Députés de la Ville de *Gorinchem*, n’ayant point concouru à la Résolution, d’où Mrs. les Commissaires de L. N. & G. P. ont déduit leur obligation à tenir la conduite, qu’ils ont suivie en cette rencontre, ne peuvent par conséquent entrer dans les délibérations sur l’approbation de cette conduite.

No. XIV.

EXTRAIT du Régistre des Résolutions de L. H. P.
les ETATS-GENERAUX des PROVINCES-UNIES.

R Eçu une Lettre de S. A. S. M^{gr}. le Prince d’ORANGE & de NASSAU, datée d’Amersfoort le 29 du mois passé, où il se plaint d’un attentat commis contre la personne de S. A. R. son Epouse, allant à la HAYE :

Fiat

Fiat insertio.

“ Sur quoi aiant été délibéré, il a été resolu de renouveler, par une seconde lettre, avec toute la force & la décence possibles, les instances faites avant-hier par L. H. P. auprès des Sgrs Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE, pour que l'insulte faite en chemin à S. A. R. soit convenablement réparée, et que non seulement elle ne soit pas empêchée de continuer sa route pour la HAYE ; mais encore qu'on l'en prie instamment, afin de pouvoir atteindre le but que S. A. R. elle même a daigné manifester : Déclarant en outre, de la maniere la plus expresse, que L. H. P. envisagent, d'un côté, ce moien, comme le plus efficace pour faire cesser, (sous la bénédiction de Dieu,) les dissensions portées à un si haut degré, ainsi que les affreuses suites qu'elles ont déjà eues, & pour prevenir celles que leur continuation doit faire craindre encore, & sauver ainsi la Republique de la ruine totale dont elle est menacée : Tandis que d'un autre côté L. H. P. apprehendent les suites funestes qui pourroient résulter pour la Republique, au cas qu'on retardât ou qu'on empêchât plus longtems le voiage de S. A. R. & le but salutaire qu'Elle se propose : Suites auxquelles ils declarent encore une fois pretendre n'avoir aucune part ; mais qu'ils laissent pour le compte des dits Sgrs. Etats, qui en seront seuls responsables ; y aiant donné lieu en différant ou en refusant de prêter l'oreille aux instances aussi justes que pressantes de cette vénérable assemblée.

Il a été resolu de plus, de répondre à S. A. S. pour lui témoigner l'impression sensible & profonde que cet événement si inattendu a fait sur l'esprit des membres de cette assemblée, & pour lui communiquer que les démarches faites avant-hier, & encore ce matin à ce sujet, par L. H. P.

auprès

auprès des Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE, n'ayant pas eu le succès qu'elles croioient avec raison pouvoir en attendre, elles ne discontinueront pas de travailler, par tous les moyens propres auxquels elles se tiennent autorisées, & qui s'accorderont avec la nature de la chose, la *dignité* de S. A. S. & l'intérêt qu'elles prennent à sa personne & à sa maison, tant pour elles-mêmes que par rapport à la République, afin d'engager encore les Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE de se rendre incessamment, tant aux instances si justes de cette Assemblée, qu'à celles de S. A. S. Et que du reste Mrs. les députés des provinces respectives aiant déjà donné connoissance de cet événement à Mrs. leurs Principaux, L. H. P. ne doutent point qu'ils ne tâchent de concourir efficacement avec elles à la fin susdite."

Mr. le Greffier FAGEL est autorisé par la presente de donner également connoissance à S. A. S. de tout ce qui a été fait & conclu relativement à cette affaire.

Mrs. les Députés des Provinces de HOLLANDE & WESTFRISE, d'OVERYSSEL, & de GRONINGUE ont pris *ad referendum* la lettre susdite de S. A. S. pour la communiquer plus amplement chez eux.

No. XV.

LETTRE de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE
à Mr. FAGEL, Greffier des Etats-Généraux; datée
de Nimegue le 1 Juillet 1787.

MONSIEUR !

Après avoir attendu jusqu'au samedi matin à trois heures, une Réponse des Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE, nous avons reçu successivement une lettre de L. N. &
G. P.

G. P. & une autre de la part de leurs Députés, dont Je vous envoie ici les copies. J'ai cru devoir répondre à celle de L. N. & G. P. de la maniere que vous le verrez par la copie ci-jointe. Je vous prie, Monsieur, de communiquer le tout à L. H. P. soit dans la Besogne, soit dans l'assemblée, comme vous le jugerez le plus convenable, & de les assurer que Je suis extrêmement sensible & reconnoissante, du zele avec lequel Elles ont témoigné, prendre cette affaire à cœur. *Surquoi &c.*

No. XVI.

LETTRE de S. A. R. Mde. la Princesse d'ORANGE
&c. aux Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE & de WEST-
FRISE.

NIMEGUE, le 1 Juillet 1787.

Quelque grande qu'ait été notre surprise, lorsque Jeudi dernier 28 Juin, nous avons été arrêtée par ordre de la commission de V. N. & G. P. établie pour la défense de leur province & de la ville d'Utrecht, & que nous avons été empêchée par elle de poursuivre notre voyage à notre Château du Bois, près de la HAYE, malgré les assurances les plus fortes que nous donnâmes que notre voyage avoit pour unique but le retablissement de la tranquillité & de la paix; & que c'étoit pour prevenir tout espece de mouvement, que nous l'avions tenu aussi secret que possible: Nous ne pouvons dissimuler à V. N. & G. P. que nous avons été encore plus sensiblement touchée de la *Maniere* dont cette demarche a été envisagée & traitée par elles.

Lorsqu'

Lorsqu'étant revenue à SCHOONHOVEN, de l'endroit où nous avions été retenue, nous donnâmes connoissance à V. N. & G. P. & à L. H. P. de cet événement extraordinaire, & que, de la manière la plus modérée, nous leur eûmes démontré combien un pareil traitement quadroit peu avec nos sentimens & nos desseins, & combien nous désirions de poursuivre notre voyage pour les réaliser, nous nous flâtions alors, qu'en considération des égards que nous croions nous être dûs de la part de V. N. & G. P. elles desapprouveroient la conduite de leurs députés envers nous ; qu'au moins à cette nouvelle elles se hâteroient de convoquer leur Assemblée, & qu'avec toute la promptitude possible elles nous auroient donné les moyens de nous rendre à notre destination & d'exécuter le plan que nous avions fait pour le bien de la Patrie, nous avons été étrangement surprise que V. N. & G. P. nous aient non seulement fait attendre leur Réponse jusqu'au samedi matin 30 Juin ; mais qu'encore cette Réponse ne nous apprit autre chose, si non qu'elles n'avoient pu prendre aucune résolution sur notre lettre, tandis que par celle que nous reçûmes de la susdite commission, nous apprimes que sa conduite avoit été approuvée par V. N. & G. P.

Cette approbation, N. G. & P. S. l'empêchement mis à notre voyage, & les difficultés que l'on a fait à la pluralité de votre Assemblée de nous laisser passer librement à notre dit chateau (ayant pris la chose *ad referendum*,) quoique nous eussions suffisamment fait connoître nos intentions, verbalement & par écrit, & malgré les plus fortes instances de la part des Sgrs. ETATS-GENERAUX de nous laisser passer ; tout cela nous a prouvé d'une manière non équivoque qu'on ne se fioit pas à notre Parole sacrée, ni aux intentions

intentions que nous avions déjà manifestées ; ce que nous considérons comme un obstacle mis, de propos délibéré & par violence, à la liberté qui appartient à chacun d'aller où bon lui semble, & surtout à nous, vû nos relations avec toute la Republique, & avec votre Province en particulier.

Sur cela, nous n'avons pàs hésité, N. G. & P. S. de sortir de votre province & de revenir ici. Puis donc, qu'il a plu à V. N. & G. P. de faire échouer par une telle conduite, nos vues salutaires & pacifiques, nous croions nous devoir à nous-même, non seulement d'exiger de la maniere la plus sérieuse une réparation convenable & publique, de l'affront qui nous a été fait, mais encore de declarer solennellement, que nous regardons comme responsables des suites facheuses que pourroient avoir dorenavant les dissensions actuelles, fût-ce même une guerre civile, que nous avons voulu prevenir par notre entremise ; que nous regardons, disons nous, comme responsables de ces suites facheuses, ceux qui par leur influence vous ont forcé à vous opposer à nos vues avec tant de violence : Cependant, nous ne cesserons jamais de veiller avec le plus grand zele aux vrais intérêts d'une nation, de laquelle nous avons reçu en general, même au milieu de son égarement, & des outrages que V. N. & G. P. nous ont faits, plus de marques de veneration & d'amour, que nous n'aurions osé en attendre, après les procédès & les résolutions si insultantes de V. N. & G. P. à notre égard."

Sur ce, N. G. & P. S. nous prions Dieu, qu'il vous ait en sa sainte & digne garde.

(Signé)

WILHELMINE.

No.

No. XVII.

LETTRE de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE
aux Seigneurs Etats de GUELDRÉ, ZÉLANDE, U-
TRECHT, FRISE, OVERYSSEL, GRONINGUE, & Pais
de DRENTHE.

NIMÈGUE, le 2 Juillet 1787.

LE désir ardent qui nous anime de prévenir par notre intervention les malheurs d'une guerre civile, & de trouver quelque moien d'appaîser les troubles actuels de la République, nous avoit fait prendre la résolution de nous rendre à la HAYE pour cette fin ; & de ne point faire connoître d'avance notre dessein, afin d'éviter toute espèce de mouvement, que la joie de notre arrivée auroit pu occasionner parmi le peuple.

Ce fut dans cette intention que nous partîmes Jeudi dernier, 28 Juin, & nous parvinmes, comme nous nous y étions attendue, sans rencontrer aucun obstacle, jusqu'à de-là de SCHOONHOVEN ; mais environ deux lieues plus loin, plusieurs detachemens des Corps-Francis armés, aiant environné nos voitures, nous forcerent d'aller au pas. Le nombre de ces Francis augmentoit à mesure que nous avançons, jusqu'à ce qu'enfin un detachment de cavalerie vint nous notifier l'ordre qu'il avoit de ne laisser passer personne. Nous représentâmes à l'officier commandant que cet ordre ne pouvoit nous concerner ; mais ce fut en vain ; tout ce que nous pûmes obtenir, fut qu'il nous conduirait dans une maison peu éloignée de là, où nous pourrions attendre la réponse d'un exprès qu'il expédia pour
demander

demander de nouveaux ordres. Le refus qu'on nous fit de faire accompagner cet exprès par un des Messieurs de notre suite, pour pouvoir donner connoissance de ce qui venoit de se passer, ne nous laissa d'autre parti à prendre, que de remettre au même exprès un billet ouvert adressé au Commandant de WOERDEN pour lui temoigner notre surprise sur le cas extraordinaire qui venoit de nous arriver, & que nous ne pouvions attribuer qu'à quelque mal-entendu.

A peine fûmes-nous entrés dans la maison où l'on nous avoit conduite, qu'on y plaça à toutes les portes des sentinelles qui ne permirent à personne de sortir, & l'officier ne quitta point l'appartement où nous nous trouvions. Quelques heures après nous eûmes la visite des membres de la Commission des Etats de HOLLANDE qui reside à WOERDEN : mais après une longue conversation, nous ne pûmes non plus les engager à nous permettre de continuer notre voyage : Ils persisterent à dire qu'ayant envoyé un exprès aux etats pour avoir des ordres ulterieurs, ils devoient attendre son retour ; & sur la proposition que nous fîmes, d'aller passer la nuit à GOUDA, ils ne nous laisserent que le choix entre SCHOONHOVEN & WOERDEN. Nous nous déterminâmes pour LEERDAM ; et la commission voiant que nous nous disposions à y retourner, nous fit accompagner par deux de ses membres jusqu'à SCHOONHOVEN. Mais ne pouvant y avoir des chevaux, nous préférâmes de rester dans cette ville, d'autant plus que ces Mrs. nous donnerent les plus fortes assurances du bon ordre qui y regnoit. En attendant nous donnâmes connoissance aux Etats de Hollande, ainsi qu'aux Etats-Generaux, par deux lettres que nous écrivîmes, l'une au Conseiller-Pensionnaire

et

et l'autre au Greffier, des obstacles que nous avions rencontrés & du désir que nous avions de continuer notre route ; mais nous fûmes obligés d'attendre jusqu'au samedi matin, le 30 de l'autre mois, la réponse que nous firent les Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE ; laquelle réponse portoit simplement, que la pluralité aiant pris notre lettre *ad referendum*, on n'avoit pu former aucune conclusion. Nous reçûmes ensuite encore une Lettre de la part de la susdite Commission de WOERDEN, par laquelle elle nous fit savoir que les Etats avoient pleinement approuvé leur conduite.

Nous voyant ainsi empêchée & arrêtée dans notre route, nous avons cru devoir retourner ici, écrire encore aux Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE pour obtenir une réparation publique & satisfaisante de l'affront & de l'insulte que nous venions d'essuyer, tant par cet empêchement même, que par la manière dont on s'y étoit pris pour l'effectuer. Nous espérons que, comme L. H. P. ne se sont pas refusées dès le commencement à faire à ce sujet les plus fortes instances auprès des Sgrs. Etats de HOLLANDE, V. N. P. voudront bien concourir avec Elles à cette fin. C'est dans cette vue que nous vous envions ci-joint la copie des lettres que nous avons écrites de SCHOONHOVEN au Conseiller-Pensionnaire & au Greffier de L. H. P. ainsi que de celle que nous avons expédiée de NIMEGUE aux Etats de HOLLANDE même. Nous y joignons encore la copie des lettres que nous avons reçues de la HAIE, de la part des Etats, ainsi que de leurs Députés à WOERDEN ; & nous nous flâtons que ces actes suffiront pour donner à V. N. P. les ouvertures nécessaires relativement au cours & à l'importance de cette affaire. *Sur quoi &c.*

No. XVIII.

LETTRE de Mr. le Greffier FAGEL à Madame la
 Princeſſe d'ORANGE, en Réponſe à celle de S. A.
 R. écrite audit Greffier, en date de NIMEGUE, le
 1 Juillet 1787.

MADAME!

HIER au ſoir tard, m'eſt parvenue la lettre que V. A.
 R. m'a fait l'honneur de m'adreſſer en date le Ni-
 MEGUE le 1^r de ce mois, par laquelle V. A. R. m'envoie
 la copie des lettres qu'elle a reçues ſucceſſivement, tant de
 la part de L. N. & G. P. que de leurs Députés, ainſi que
 la copie de la lettre que V. A. R. a écrite en réponſe aux
 Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE, afin que je les commu-
 nique à L. H. P,

En conféquence, j'ai remis ce matin à l'aſſemblée de L.
 H. P. la ſuſdite lettre de V. A. R. avec les pieces annexes.
 Sur quoi aiant été délibéré, Meſſieurs les Députés des Pro-
 vinces reſpectives ont pris copie de la ſuſdite lettre, & des
 pieces authentiques, pour les communiquer plus ample-
 ment à leur Provinces; L. H. P. étant dans la juſte &
 ferme attente que les Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE &
 WESTFRISE repondront convenablement aux inſtances
 qui leur ont déjà été faites, tant par L. H. P. dans trois
 lettres confécutives, que par V. A. R. dans la lettre qu'
 Elle leur a adreſſée, afin de pouvoir prévenir encore à
 tems les malheurs qui ſont à redouter.

Je suis autorisé à donner connoissance de cette conclusion à V. A. R. & j'ai l'honneur d'être avec le plus profond respect,

Madame,

De votre Altesse Royale,

Le très humble & très obeïssant serviteur,

La Haye,

(Etoit signé)

H. FAGEL.

ce 3 Juillet 1787.

No. XIX.

EXTRAIT du Régître des Résolutions de LEURS
HAUTES PUISSANCES, les Seigneurs ETATS-GE-
NERAUX des PROVINCES-UNIES.

Mardi 3 Juillet, 1787.

LE Greffier FAGEL a communiqué à l'Assemblée une Lettre reçue hier au soir tard, de la part de S. A. R. datée de NIMEGUE du 1 de ce mois, avec quelques Pieces authentiques : La Lettre & les Pieces susdites se trouvent insérées ci-après.

FIAT INSERTIO.

Surquoi aiant été délibéré Messieurs les Députés des Provinces respectives ont pris copie de la susdite Lettre & des Pieces authentiques pour les communiquer plus amplement à leur Provinces. L. H. P. sont dans la juste & ferme attente que les Seigneurs Etats de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE répondront convenablement aux instances

qui leur ont déjà été faites, tant par L. H. P. dans trois Lettres consécutives, que par S. A. R. dans la lettre qu'Elle leur a adressée, afin qu'on puisse encore prévenir à tems les malheurs qui sont à redouter.

Le Greffier FAGEL, est autorisé par la présente de donner, d'une manière convenable, connoissance à S. A. R. de la conclusion qui vient d'être formée.

Cette conclusion a été formée par Monsieur de WELDEREN, comme aiant présidé, la semaine dernière, de la part de la Province de GUELDRES.

Messieurs les Députés de la Province de HOLLANDE & de WESTFRISE n'y ont pas concouru.

Messieurs les Députés de la Province d'OVERYSSEL se sont réservé les libres délibérations des Seigneurs Etats leurs Principaux.

Conforme au susdit Registre.



No. XX.

RAPPORT circonstancié de toutes les circonstances qui ont précédé, accompagné, et suivi l'arrivée de Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE dans la Province de HOLLANDE, le 28 Juin dernier; envoyé a L. N. & G. P. Les Etats de HOLLANDE et de WESTFRISE; de la part de la Commission des Etats établie à WOERDEN, pour la Défense de la Province de HOLLANDE et de la Ville d'UTRECHT.

NOBLES, GRANDES ET PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

CONformément & pour satisfaire à la Résolution de V. N. & Gr. P. du 23. de ce mois, par laquelle il a plu à V. N. & Gr. P. de nous écrire, que nous leur fissions parvenir au plutôt un Récit détaillé & circonstancié de tout ce qui s'est passé à l'occasion du voyage de Son Altesse Royale à la HAYE le 28 Juin dernier, nous avons l'honneur d'envoyer à *Vos-Nobles & Gr. Puissances* une copie authentique d'un Rapport détaillé de tout ce qui s'est fait relativement à l'empêchement apporté à la continuation du dit voyage de Son Altesse, avant que nous nous fussions transportés sur les lieux; Rapport, que nous avons exigé, il y a déjà quelque tems, de la part des Officiers-Commandants les deux Détachemens, tant de Bourgeois que de Militaires, qui s'y sont trouvés présens: Et pour autant, que cet événement a rapport à ce que nous avons exécuté dans cette circonstance, ou à ce qui s'est passé sous nos yeux, nous saisissons avec d'autant plus de plaisir l'occasion d'en donner une information exacte à *V. N. & Gr. Puissances*, que toute cette affaire est plus simple dans sa nature & ses circonstances,

stances, & que la conduite, que nous avons tenuë à ce sujet, porte plus de marques de ce zèle desintéressë, pour remplir les vuës importantes de la Commission, que *V. N. & Gr. P.* nous ont déferée; zèle qui seul, joint au succès si désiré de nos efforts, est capable, au milieu des calamités de notre Patrie, de nous consoler des difficultés & des désagrémens multipliés, que nous éprouvons journellement de toutes parts.

Le Jeudi, 28 Juin dernier, à 7 heures du matin, nous fumes informés par Mr. *Corneille Jean de Lange*, Seigneur de la Baronnie de *Wyngaarden & Ruigbroek*, Conseiller & Echevin actuel de la Ville de *Goude*, en qualité de Commandant d'un Détachement de la Société d'exercice de la dite Ville, qui avoit été placé, quelques jours auparavant, à l'Ecluse de *Goejanverwelle* pour la garde de ce poste, qu'au Village de *Haestrecht*, situé non loin de la de l'autre côté de la Rivière l'*Yffel*, il avoit été commandé pour les 3 heures de l'après-midi quelques Relais de Chevaux à l'usage d'un personnage illustre, qui devoit y passer; & que, cette Nouvelle s'étant répandue dans le Public, une partie des habitants, qui s'étoient déjà plus d'une fois rendus coupables de mouvemens séditieux, se préparoient à s'y rassembler en foule vers ce tems-là. En conséquence, dans l'incertitude si c'étoit un simple bruit ou bien une Nouvelle authentique; quelle étoit la Personne ou les Personnes, qui devoient passer par-la, & quel but on avoit en vüe, nous nous crumes obligés de donner ordre au Commandant du Détachement mentionné, ainsi qu'à un Détachement de Cavalerie de 20 Hommes du Regiment du Lieutenant-Général Prince de *Hesse-Philipsthal*, en Garnison à *Woerden*, d'y marcher sous le Commandement de l'Enseigne *van Marle*;

Marle; de prendre poste à une certaine Place appelée *Bonrepas*, & d'enjoindre aux Commandans de ces deux Détachemens “ de demander aux Personnes, qui passeroient par-la, *d’ou elles venoient & ou elles alloient*; d’arrêter toutes Personnes, dont l’arrivée en cette Province pourroit nuire a la tranquillité publique, & de nous en donner avis sur le champ.” Nous croyant au dernier point responsables à *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* de tous les événemens, que nous pouvions prévoir, & que cependant nous n’aurions pas prévenus, nous pensâmes être d’autant plus obligés à donner ces ordres, que de la part de ceux, qui prétendent être Partisans de la Maison d’ORANGE, mais qui dans le fond n’ont en vuë que le succès de leurs vuës particulières, il a été travaillé depuis quelques années particulièrement dans ce tems-ci, à faire échouer par le détestable moyen des Emeutes populaires, auxquelles on a fait servir, par un abus insigne, le nom & la couleur d’Orange, les Réformes que *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* ont faites dans le pouvoir *Stadhouderien*, comme dans leur propre Administration, d’après le vœu & avec l’applaudissement de la partie la plus saine & la plus desintéressée des Bourgeoises les plus respectables de cette Province. Nous crûmes devoir d’autant plus nous prêter à donner de tels ordres, que personne ne pouvoit sçavoir ce qu’il y avoit de vrai dans le bruit répandu, ni quels projets il pouvoit couvrir, & que, quoiqu’il pût en arriver, *V. N. & Gr. P.* pouvoient toujours dans la suite donner tels ordres qu’Elles jugeroient nécessaires, pourvu que nous eussions soin, que les choses restassent en leur entier.

Vers les 6 heures du soir nous apprîmes à notre grande surprise, par un exprès envoyé au Général-Major *van Ryffel*,
et

et chargé d'un Billet ouvert du Quartier-Maitre-Général *Bentinck*, la Nouvelle, que S. A. R. Madame la Princeſſe d'ORANGE, venant de *Schoonhoven* dans un Caroffe, ſuivi d'un autre Caroffe & d'une Chaiſe de Poſte, avoit été arrêtée, à la Digue près de *Haefrecht*, & qu'Elle demandoit à ſe rendre à l'Ecluſe de *Goejanverwelle*, en attendant nos intentions. A peine eumes nous appris par le Billet du Quartier-Maitre-General *Bentinck* ce qui étoit arrivé, que nous réſolûmes de nous transporter ſans délai à l'Ecluſe du *Goejanverwelle*, ſoit pour nous informer des particularités de l'affaire ſur le lieu même, ſoit pour conférer de bouche avec S. A. R. ſur ce qu'il y avoit à faire à ce ſujet, & pour concerter les arrangemens néceſſaires.

En conféquence, environ un quart-d'heure après la réception de cette Nouvelle nous nous rendîmes à l'Ecluſe de *Goejanverwelle* en voiture, eſcortés d'un Detachement de 20 hommes du même Régiment de *Heſſe-Philipsſthal* (ainſi que nous l'avons fait pluſieurs fois avant & après ce tems, lorsſque cette eſcorte étoit néceſſaire.) Nous y trouvâmes à notre arrivée Mr. *M. de Toulon*, l'un de nos Collègues, lequel, venant d'exécuter une Commiſſion à *Rotterdam* & paſſant par *Goude*, étoit arrivé au même endroit peu avant nous. Il nous informa, qu'à la Nouvelle du paſſage d'un ou de pluſieurs grands Perſonages, le Petit-Peuple s'étoit attroupé en foule dans & auprès de la Ville de *Goude*, particulièrement à l'Ecluſe de *Stokwyk* & à la Digue de *Haefrecht*. Immédiatement à notre arrivée nous fîmes demander Audience à S. A. R. par un Meſſager-d'Etat. En attendant nous apprîmes, que les meilleurs arrangemens avoient été pris, pour prévenir la preſſe de la populace du côté de *Goude* & à la Digue de l'*Yſſel*, & que la Canon,

qui

qui y avoit déjà été conduit quelques jours auparavant pour la defense de ce Poste, & qui avoit été précédemment placé près de la Maison, où se trouvoit alors S. A. Royale, avoit actuellement été transporté à l'autre partie du Hameau du côté de *Goude*. Ensuite le Messager nous aiant fait rapport, que S. A. R. nous attendroit, nous nous sommes rendus à la Maison, où Elle se trouvoit, suivis du Commandant *de Lange*. Nous ne trouvâmes d'autres gens armés qu'uniquement deux Sentinelles devant la Porte. Etant entrés nous donnâmes à connoître à S. A. Royale, que nous trouvâmes seule, " qu'ayant eu avis de son arrivée & de l'empêchement apporté à sa route ultérieure, " nous avons été surpris de cet événement inopiné, & " qu'en vertu des amples pouvoirs, qui nous avoient été " confiés, nous avons jugé de notre devoir de venir en " personne auprès de S. A. Royale, pour nous informer " du but, qu'Elle avoit dans un voyage si inattendu, du- " quel nous pensions que *V. N. & Gr. P.* n'avoient aucune " connoissance, & cela après une si longue absence, justement dans un tems où M. le Prince d'ORANGE, son " Epoux, se trouvoit au-delà d'*Utrecht* à la tête d'un nombre de Troupes de l'Etat; ce qui avoit jetté tout le " Pays, sur-tout la Province de *Hollande* dans la crainte " d'une invasion, & avoit engagé *V. N. & Gr. P.* à établir une Commission pour la Defense de cette Province " & de la Ville d'*Utrecht*; & qu'en conséquence, sans nous " rendre responsables de l'événement, nous ne pourrions " permettre, que S. A. R. pénétrât plus avant dans la " Province, sans avoir reçu à cet égard une Résolution " préalable de *V. N. & Gr. Puissances*, que nous avons " demandée par un Exprès, expédié à la *Haye* déjà avant " notre départ de *Woerden*."

Son

Son Altesse Royale ayant répondu, “ que, le Prince d’
 “ ORANGE ne pouvant venir actuellement dans la Pro-
 “ vince, Elle avoit pris la résolution de s’y rendre dans de
 “ bonnes vues ;” nous insistâmes avec empressement, pour
 sçavoir, quelles étoient donc les vuës de S. A. Royale, &
 si Elle étoit disposée à co-opérer au rétablissement du repos
 à des conditions equitables. Elle répondit à ces instances
 en termes généraux, donnant à entendre, “ que ses vuës
 “ étoient bonnes ; mais que M. le Prince d’ORANGE avoit
 “ essuyé beaucoup d’injustices” Il lui fut répliqué, “ qu’il
 “ étoit douloureux pour la Commission d’entendre de S.
 “ A. Royale ce qu’elle venoit de dire ; qu’on ne pouvoit
 “ blâmer un Peuple libre de reclamer ses Droits légitimes ;
 “ qu’on ne devoit jamais perdre de vue, que les Régens
 “ étoient établis pour avancer le salut du Peuple, & que le
 “ Peuple n’étoit nullement fait pour ne servir qu’à l’aggran-
 “ diffement du pouvoir des Règens.” Son A. R. ayant
 dit sur cela, “ que tels étoient aussi ses sentimens ; que
 “ *chacun avoit ses Droits* ; mais que ce n’étoit pas le lieu
 “ de s’étendre sur un tel sujet.” nous représentâmes à S. A.
 Royale, “ que, puisque nous n’osions pas laisser S. A. R.
 “ poursuivre son voyage dans la Province sans le consente-
 “ ment préalable de *V. N. & Gr. Puissances*, & que S. A.
 “ R. ne pouvoit cependant passer la nuit dans cet endroit,
 “ nous devons la prier de dire, où il lui plairoit de se ren-
 “ dre, pour faire séjour dans l’intervalle.” Sur cette prière
 S. A. R. donna à connoître, “ qu’Elle vouloit aller à
 “ *Gouda*” à quoi notre Collègue de *Toulon* répliqua, “ que,
 “ si cette résolution étoit prise, il s’y transporterait d’
 “ avance pour en donner avis & y faire préparer les arrange-
 “ mens nécessaires.” Mais un instant après il demanda
 aux autres Membres de la Commission de pouvoir les en-
 tretenir

tretenir en particulier. Etant alors entrés dans une autre
 Appartement, nous apprimes de notre Collègue sus-dit,
 “ qu’il trouvoit des difficultés au séjour de S. A. R. à
 “ *Goude* ; qu’il craignoit, que contre l’intention même
 “ de S. A. R. ce séjour ne donna occasion à des mouve-
 “ mens parmi la Populace, qui pourroient nuire au repos
 “ de cette Ville & attirer aussi des defagrémens à S. A.
 “ Royale ; qu’il soumettoit à notre considération de pro-
 “ poser un autre séjour à S. A. R. soit à *Woerden* ou à
 “ *Schoonhoven* ; Villes, qui n’étoient l’un & l’autre éloig-
 “ nées de l’Ecluse de *Goejanverwelle*, que d’une grosse
 “ heure de trajet en voiture.” Etant convenus, en con-
 sequence de ces observations, de dissuader à S. A. R. le sé-
 jour de *Goude*, nous nous rendimes de nouveau auprès d’
 Elle. Nous y trouvames alors Mademoiselle de *Wassenaar*
 de *Starrenbourg*, le Comte de *Randwyck*, & le Baron de
Bentinck : Nous communiquames à S. A. R. les embarras
 ou pourroient être jettées la Ville de *Goude* & les Places
 voisines, si Elle persistoit dans son dessein, & nos craintes
 qu’il n’en resulta des inconveniens, proposant finalement
 à S. A. R. de se rendre à *Schoonhoven* ou à *Woerden*, & lui
 offrant dans ce dernier cas, le Château que nous occupions
 nous-mêmes, & que nous étions prêts à evacuer, si elle vou-
 loit y fixer en attendant son séjour. D’abord S. A. R.
 parut ne vouloir pas croire, que nos difficultés sur son sé-
 jour à *Goude* fussent fondées, alleguant, que nous n’y avions
 auparavant opposé aucune difficulté, & declarant, que pour
 elle il n’y avoit rien à craindre. Mais nous lui observames,
 “ que nous venions de recevoir des informations ultérieures
 “ dans une conference particuliere avec notre Collègue de
 “ *Toulon*, & que nous nous assurions, que S. A. R. vou-
 “ droit bien donner une marque de ses bonnes intentions,

en

“ en renonçant à ce projet, & en concourant ainsi à conserver le bon ordre & la tranquillité dans cette Ville-là “ d’autant plus que nous ne pouvions pas plus garantir “ S. A. R. que toute autre Personne des excès d’une “ Populace grossière & féroce.” Alors S. A. R. se rendit enfin à notre prière, & annonça, “ qu’Elle ne vouloit pas “ aller a *Woerden* mais à *Schoonhoven* : ” Cependant, après une courte conversation avec le Comte de *Randwyck*, Elle dit, “ qu’Elle préféreroit de se rendre à *Leerdam*, qui étoit “ une Seigneurie du Prince d’ORANGE.” Nous ne nous y opposâmes pas : Nous nous bornâmes à lui représenter, “ qu’après un voyage si long & fatigant, il seroit bien “ pénible pour S. A. R. de devoir aller si loin ; ” mais Elle persista dans son sentiment. Le Baron de *Bentinck* fit ensuite quelques difficultés, “ si S. A. R. pourroit séjourner “ ou passer avec sûreté à *Schoonhoven*, attendu que l’après “ midi, lorsqu’Elle avoit traversé la Ville, il étoit venu du “ monde sur pié,” sans cependant faire mention, qu’il y eut eu du desordre. Nous répondîmes, *que nous étions si bien convaincus, que ce concours de Peuple dans la Ville n’avoit été occasionné que par l’apparition imprévue de S. A. Royale, que nous osions bien être garants, qu’Elle n’avoit aucun inconvénient à y attendre.* Nous offrîmes en même tems de la faire accompagner jusqu’à *Schoonhoven*, & en passant la Ville, par deux Membres de la Commission, ainsi que par un Détachement de Cavalerie, aussi nombreux & aussi petit, qu’Elle le jugeroit à propos Elle-même : Ce que S. A. R. accepta après quelque entretien.

Après avoir en conséquence donné les ordres pour faire repasser la Rivière aux Voitures, tant à celle des deux Membres de la Commission, qui devoient accompagner S.

A. Royale,

A. Royale, qu'à celles de cette Princeſſe et de ſon Cortège, ainſi qu'au Détachement de Cavalerie, nous nous rendimes une ſeconde fois dans un autre Appartement, où le Baron de *Bentinck* nous parla de donner un ordre par écrit, pour qu'on laiſſat paſſer Madame la Princeſſe par *Schoonhoven* : Mais Mr. de *Bentinck* abandonna cette idée ſur la représentation, " que cela étoit inutile, puisſque deux Membres " de la Commiſſion s'étoient offerts à accompagner S. A. " Royale : " Et à cette occaſion nous témoignames au dit Baron de *Bentinck*, " combien nous étions fâchés, que cet accident fût juſtement arrivé à S. A. Royale ; mais nous lui expoſames en même tems l'obligation, où nous étions, d'attendre à cet égard les ordres de *Vos Nobles & Grandes Puiffances.*" Surquoi le Baron de *Bentinck* avoua rondement que *nous n'aurions pu agir autrement que nous ne l'avions fait.*—Tout étant prêt pour la poursuite du voyage, & deux Membres de la Commiſſion ayant pris les devants avec une partie de l'Eſcorte, S. A. Royale fut conduite au Ponton par les deux autres Membres de la Commiſſion & par le fuſ-dit Commandant de *Lange*, à travers un petit nombre de Bourgeois de la Millice de *Goude*, rangés en deux hayes & préſentant leurs armes ; & ils lui donnèrent également la main au fortir du Ponton, ſans qu'il y eut la aucun Homme armé, juſqu'à la Voiture, où les deux Membres de la Commiſſion & le Commandant prirent congé de S. A. R. en lui ſouhaitant un heureux voyage.

Son Alteſſe Royale s'étant ainſi remiſe en route avec une partie de ſa Suite, tandis que les deux Membres de la Commiſſion, avec le reſte de l'Eſcorte, l'attendoient ſur le chemin, tout ce Cortège arriva ainſi à la Porte de *Schoonhoven*, où le Baron de *Bentinck* vint joindre la Voiture des
Membres

Membres de la Commission, & leur communiqua, que S. A. Royale, trop fatiguée du voyage, avoit résolu de rester cette nuit à *Schoonhoven*. Sur cet avis, les Membres de la Commission offrirent de prendre les devans, pour aller se concerter avec le Magistrat de la Ville, afin de procurer un logement convenable à S. A. R. & a sa Suite. S'y étant rendus en conséquence, ils prirent avec le Magistrat les arrangemens nécessaires à cet effet & en donnèrent ensuite le plutôt possible avis à S. A. Royale, qu'ils conduisirent au *Doelen* (Logement public de la Ville) destiné pour le séjour de la Princesse : Ils laissèrent le Détachement de Cavalerie hors de la Ville, quoiqu'il y soit entré ensuite avec la permission du Magistrat, mais sans le sçu ni l'aveu des deux Membres de la Commission, qui ne l'eurent pas plutôt appris, qu'ils donnèrent sur le champ, à ce Détachement, l'ordre de quitter de nouveau la Ville. C'est-la que les Membres de la Commission furent remerciés d'une manière amicale, par Madame la Princesse en Personne, des égards, qu'ils avoient montrés pour Elle ; & le Baron de *Bentinck* répéta une seconde fois au nom de la Princesse le même témoignage de reconnoissance à ces Membres de la Commission, après qu'ils eurent pris congé de S. A. Royale : Il leur demanda en même tems, que les deux Bourgeois armés, que le Magistrat avoit placés devant la Porte du *Doelen*, reçussent ordre ou de se retirer tout-à-fait, ou du moins de rester hors de la Maison ; ce que les Membres de la Commission effectuèrent sur le champ ; quoique, lorsqu'ils furent déjà sortis de la Maison, le Baron de *Bentinck* eût dit aux Membres de la Commission, que, si la Milice Bourgeoise desiroit fortement de faire la Garde devant la porte de la Maison, S. A. R. ne vouloit pas s'y opposer. Les Membres de la Commission, après un court
séjour

féjour à la Maison de l'un des Bourguemaitres en fonction, s'en revinrent à *Woerden* avec une partie de l'Escorte de Cavalerie, tandis que l'autre partie, après s'être reposée quelque tems dans l'Auberge hors de la ville, revint le lendemain : Et ainsi S. A. R. s'est trouvée le lendemain pendant toute la journée à *Schoonhoven*, sans aucun empêchement,

Le jour suivant, vers le soir, ayant reçu sous main des informations particulières de la Resolution provisoire de *V. N. & Gr. Puissances*, & ayant promis à S. A. R. de lui en donner connoissance, aussitot que nous en serions instruits, nous avons effectivement envoyé une Lettre pour donner à S. A. R. avis de cette Nouvelle : Mais l'Exprès, qui devoit porter la Lettre, ayant été chargé par nous d'exécuter son voyage, de manière qu'il arrivat non au milieu de la nuit, mais le matin sur les 7 heures, à *Schoonhoven*, pour ne pas interrompre par la lecture de cette Lettre le repos de S. A. Royale, trouva, qu'Elle en étoit déjà partie ; ce que nous ne pouvions prévoir, ignorant absolument le départ prochain de S. A. R. pour *Leerdam*. Cet incident fut cause, que S. A. R. ne reçut pas la Lettre à *Schoonhoven*, mais que probablement elle lui fut remise à *Leerdam*.

C'est ainsi que, dans cette circonstance critique & delicate, nous avons cru, sans manquer à la déférence & à tous les égards possibles pour la haute naissance & le Sexe de S. A. Royale, avoir satisfait aux engagemens sacrés, qui nous étoient imposés, avec toute la discretion, que permettoit un évènement aussi inattendu : Et par conséquent *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* jugeront aisément de notre surprise,

prise, lorsque nous avons appris, que S. A. R. qui, dans ses Lettres écrites le même soir, tant au Conseiller Pensionnaire qu'à M. le Greffier *Fagel*, ne s'étoit plainte d'aucun manque injurieux envers sa Personne, en avoit tiré offense ; & que cet évènement si simple, qui, d'après les circonstances actuelles, étoit une suite nécessaire des obligations, qui nous étoient imposées, au point qu'on auroit pu nous reprocher une conduite différente comme une négligence de notre devoir, semble avoir donné occasion au mécontentement d'un des plus grands Monarques de l'*Europe*, qui connoit si a fond les Droits de chaque Souverain sur son propre Territoire.

Mais nous laissons avec confiance à la sagesse & à la pénétration de *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* de concerter les moyens les plus convenables, pour faire apprécier cette affaire à sa juste valeur, lorsque *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* le jugeront nécessaire : Et nous nous estimerons heureux, si le sus-dit Rapport détaillé peut satisfaire au but de *V. N. & Gr. Puissances*, & si dans une circonstance aussi difficile nous avons par notre conduite donné des preuves, que nous avons sçu allier notre amour pour la Patrie & l'accomplissement de nos devoirs avec cette réserve & cette circonspection, que nous devons à la première Citoyenne de notre République & à la Maison Royale, dont Elle est issue.—Surquoi, nous recommandons *V. N. & Gr. Puissances* à la protection de Dieu.

(Signé)

COSTERUS, Secrétaire.

Écrit à *Woerden*,

le 28 Aout 1787.

No. XX.

AVIS des N. & P. Seigneurs du Corps Equestre
& de la Noblesse de HOLLANDE, fait à l'Assemblée de L. N. & G. P. Jeudi, le 23 Août
1787, sur le dernier Mémoire de M. de THUL-
LEMEYER, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M.
le Roi de PRUSSE.

LES Seigneurs de l'Ordre Equestre & les Nobles, ayant déjà manifesté leurs idées, dans leurs avis insérés dans les Registres du 7 & du 10 Juillet, pourroient se contenter actuellement de les répéter, & réitérer leur protestation d'innocence touchant tous ces désastres dont l'infortunée patrie, & cette partie des bons habitans de la Hollande qui, abusés par des illusions trompeuses, se hâtent à pas précipités vers leur ruine & celle de leur famille, n'est présentement plus menacée, mais bientôt accablée : mais les Seigneurs de l'Ordre Equestre se trouvent contraints par leurs consciences—pour satisfaire à leurs devoirs les plus sacrés, qu'ils ont jurés au bien-être des habitans de la Hollande ; par la part désintéressée qu'ils protestent de prendre à étouffer les malheureuses dissensions ; au rétablissement du concorde & du repos, & à tous les événemens qui en pourroient résulter ; ou à détourner les suites qu'ils prévoient, & qu'ils ont prédites, & qui ne se trouvent, à leur grand regret, que trop vérifiées ; de représenter encore une fois de la manière la plus affectueuse à V. N. & G. P. le vrai tableau des circonstances infortunées où se voit notre patrie ; cette province jadis bénite & si florissante, & si réputée, l'objet de l'admiration & souvent de l'envie même

de toutes les nations connues ;—qui fouillant maintenant dans ses propres entrails, se voit par un discord qui détruit tout, & par des passions effrénées, sur le penchant des désastres irréparables ; d'une ruine inévitable & entière de tous les habitans, qui en est inséparable.

Lorsque les Seigneurs de l'Ordre Equestre proposèrent leur avis, le 7 Juillet, à cette illustre Assemblée, ils jugèrent dans la situation des affaires d'alors de faire assez, en effleurant seulement les fondemens qui l'ont motivé ; ils se flattoient que l'œil pénétrant des Membres de l'illustre Assemblée de V. N. & G. P. donneroient sans doute à ces fondemens effleurés cette étendue dont ils étoient si clairement susceptibles.

Lors même que le 10 Juillet on délibéra sur le Mémoire de M. de Thulemeyer, l'Ordre Equestre a fait les instances les plus pressantes, en inhérant leur avis du 7 Juillet, de faire les réflexions les plus sérieuses, touchant la nécessité absolue de moyennier au plus tôt des moyens conciliatoires propres à prévenir les suites que l'Ordre Equestre craignoit, & qu'il avoit donné ouvertement à entendre.

L'Ordre Equestre n'a pu cependant avoir la satisfaction de voir couronnés ses avis motivés, ou ses propositions conciliatoires bien intentionnées, par quelque influence sur la pluralité des Membres ; mais au contraire a dû entendre le 10 Juillet, à leur sortie de session par la pluralité, une réponse au Mémoire connu de l'Envoyé du Roi, qui parut à l'Ordre Equestre le même jour & ne pouvoir en attendre ou espérer aucun bon effet. Et cet effet se trouve actuellement tel dans le Mémoire ultérieur de la Cour de Berlin. L'expérience démontre actuellement le fondement des prévoyances sur lequel le premier avis de l'Ordre Equestre a été porté—maintenant le point est monté au plus haut point !

point ! maintenant le danger menaçant augmente à chaque instant ; & l'on ne feroit assez apprécier ces instans, si l'on veut encore mettre en œuvre les moyens pour prévenir une situation absolument sans ressource.

Le Corps Equestre croit, que le terme *sans ressource*, dont il marque cette *situation*, n'est pas trop expressif, mais fondé à tous égards sur des vérités sans réplique. Il est prêt à sacrifier son bien & son sang pour *cette* liberté, pour le maintien de *cette* constitution, que nos ancêtres ont connue, & qu'ils ont acquise & fondée par des ruisseaux de sang.

Mais le Corps Equestre ne concourra jamais à rendre les habitans de la Hollande les victimes d'actions si inconsidérées, qui violent injustement en elles-mêmes le droit de la nature, & celui des gens—qui détruisent la liberté, & qui provoquent la vengeance de ceux que l'on a nécessités, par des traitemens téméraires, de les exécuter par le moyen des armes.—Et quels sont, hélas ! les moyens de défense qui peuvent être mis en œuvre dans ces circonstances infortunées, pour apaiser un peuple que l'on est obligé, non-seulement de préserver de dangers évidens, mais aussi de mettre à couvert des dangers menaçans ?

Trouvera-t-on ces moyens dans la concorde, jadis l'appui inébranlable de notre pouvoir ? Elle a disparu ; & son rétablissement si désiré, ne peut avoir lieu que par le secours du Tout-Puissant.

Ces moyens se trouveront-ils dans la puissance de l'Etat de finance de la Hollande, ce nerf de l'Etat, par lequel toutes les expéditions militaires doivent se conduire & s'exécuter ? Qui d'entre les Membres de V. N. & G. P.—de ces Membres composant le corps des Régentes des villes

villes respectives, en ignorent plus ou moins la situation déplorable ? En faut-il d'autre preuve ? L'on n'a qu'à jeter l'œil sur la dernière négociation de 5 millions, faite par la Hollande ;—l'on n'a qu'à supputer la perte énorme de 22 pour cent, & cette négociation coûte 16 cents mille florins au pays ;—l'on n'a qu'à considérer les prix actuels des obligations, la diminution importante de la valeur des effets,—des dépenses énormes qui ont lieu arbitrairement dans un pays réglé, dans un pays devenu puissant par l'économie, & exécutées par une commission qui est pourvue d'un pouvoir plus que dictatorial, & qui a une disposition libre, irresponsable, & sans bornes, sur la caisse du pays ; qui en fait usage de la manière la plus inconstitutionnelle qu'il se puisse imaginer, & absolument sans exemple, à sa volonté & à des fins proposées par elle seule, & dont la plupart du tems le Souverain même n'a pas la moindre connoissance, que lorsqu'elle juge à propos de demander des résolutions approbatives, dont l'esprit dominant lui assure suffisamment l'acquisition.

S'il s'agit de rendre hommage à la vérité ; s'il s'agit de parler sans détour, & avec la franchise d'un ancien Batave, le Corps Equestre ne doit pas dissimuler à V. N. & G. P. qu'il est instruit que les dépenses de cette commission, ou les ordonnances qui lui ont été accordées, à sa réquisition, emportoient déjà durant les premières semaines de sa nomination, environ une somme de 600,000 florins.

S'il en est ainsi, le Corps Equestre n'a pas besoin de faire des réflexions à cet égard ; elles s'offrent d'elles-mêmes, & donnent un champ libre à la comparaison de l'ancienne industrie des Hollandois, dans le maniement de leurs finances, à la profusion déréglée qui règne actuellement si effrénément.

Le Corps Equestre se flatte encore que ces avis se trouvent sans fondement, & que les Conseillers Commités ayant la meilleure connoissance de l'état des finances, pourront déclarer en conscience ces bruits comme non fondés.

Les moyens de défense se chercheront & se trouveront-ils encore dans l'avancement du commerce, & les ressources qu'il offre ?

A l'érection de cette République, & durant plusieurs époques incertaines de son existence, l'on vit plus d'une fois l'ennemi dans le pays, & l'on en éprouva les désastres : cependant le commerce conserva du moins une partie de son cours ; le pavillon Hollandois, tantôt plus, tantôt moins protégée, se présentait, & apportait des richesses qui mettoient les habitans à même de payer les taxes chargeans que la conservation du pays exigeoit.—La puissante ville d'Amsterdam soutint la république ; sa bourse puissante la rendoit maîtresse du commerce de l'univers, même durant les tems fâcheux, & répandoit par un nombre infini de petites veines, qui sortoient toutes de cette riche source & qu'elle favoit nourrir, une prospérité qui rendoit son pouvoir intrinsèque indissoluble, & qui lui a fait soutenir les plus grands assauts.

Mais présentement, hélas ! si cette riche source n'est pas entièrement tarie, elle se trouve au moins dans un état déplorable. Ici les paroles manquent ! Le Corps Equestre s'effraie à la vue de sa situation, qu'on ne sauroit nier ! Et que n'a-t-on pas à craindre encore ? Un instant ne peut-il pas déterminer la clôture des rivières, le long desquelles le commerce de cette province se fait encore avec quelque avantage ? Peut-on s'aveugler sur le dommage que cela porteroit aux principales villes de la Hollande ?—Les habitans de Dort ne souffriroient-ils pas extrêmement,

par

par l'obstacle apporté au commerce en bois ? Les habitans de Schiedam, ne se trouveroient-ils pas empêchés dans le commerce des charbons, qu'on envoie le long de la Rhone ? La ville d'Amsterdam, ne devoit-elle pas se passer du commerce par les navires venant du Haut Rhin ? Et combien grand alors seroit le nombre de ceux qui trouvent leur subsistance dans ce commerce, & qui en seroient privés ? Nous tirons la toile sur ce tableau hideux, le cœur ferré des suites fatales qui s'élèvent à ce sujet de toutes parts.

Enfin ces moyens de défense les cherchera, les trouvera-t-on dans le secours de nos confédérés, ou dans celui des Puissances étrangères ?

La réponse à cette demande & l'exposition des différens objets, qu'il faut considérer sous tant de points de vues différens, est d'une nature si délicate, & en même tems si embarrassante, que le Corps Equestre craint de s'exprimer à cet égard. Pour cet effet il faudroit une connoissance fondée du système politique de cette partie de notre globe ; il faudroit pour cela épier les mystères des Cabinets, & les découvrir autant qu'il seroit possible ; cela exige des combinaisons ; & il faut de la prévoyance à cet égard, que la prudence interdit de déployer, & de confier au papier ! — Le Corps Equestre s'en rapporte à la sagesse des Membres, qui ne peuvent que trop apprécier la situation actuelle de l'Union, & qui peuvent épier de même celui des Monarques qui nous environnent, & qui ne considèrent pas d'un œil indifférent cette République ; n'ayant pas besoin pour cela d'éclaircissement de la part du Corps Equestre, qui proteste de n'avoir pas la moindre pensée que leurs Co-membres de cette Assemblée aient besoin de la moindre élucidation sur cette matière importante de leur part, une idée sans doute qui pourroit être taxée de témérité.

Après

Après des réflexions mûres & modérées touchant ce qui a été dit, le Corps Equestre se trouve obligé de rappeler encore leur avis proposé le 10 juillet, & d'insister convenablement auprès de V. N. & G. P. de mettre d'abord en œuvre les moyens conciliatoires ; sans déroger à la dignité souveraine de V. N. & G. P. sans subir quoi que ce soit d'humiliant, de ne pas faire coopérer cet accident malheureux, à l'augmentation des tristes circonstances où cette République se trouve indisputablement.

Le Corps Equestre renouvelle donc ses instances, & rappelle son avis préalable. Il offre franchement d'y concourir, & donnera dans toutes les occasions & à tous égards des preuves qu'il ne prend rien plus à cœur, & qu'il ne souhaite rien de plus ardemment, que de travailler de concert avec tous les Membres au bien-être réel de la province ! à sa défense ! en un mot, au rétablissement de son repos, de son bonheur, & de sa prospérité ! — & sacrifiera pour cela sans cesse son bien & son sang.

Telles sont, N. G. & P. Seigneurs, les intentions sincères, uniques, & véritables, du Corps Equestre.—Il en fait la protestation la plus solennelle, dans la ferme persuasion qu'il doit cette protestation & l'exposition franche de tous ses sentimens, contenus dans cet avis, plus étendu que de coutume, à ses devoirs envers le Tout-Puissant, envers sa conscience, envers son serment, envers tous les habitans de la Hollande, & enfin à cette illustre Assemblée même—dont les délibérations & les avis doivent être réglés par la *vérité*, la *franchise*, & la *persuasion*. Nous devons encore ajouter ici, N. G. & P. S. que c'est la seconde fois que le Corps Equestre a été obligé, dans un court espace de tems, de proposer des avis aussi détaillés à cette illustre Assemblée. Les objets en étoient de la dernière importance, & em-

portent

portent que le Corps Equestre a pu développer *ses sentimens généraux dans les affaires politiques, une fois pour toutes.*

Il l'a fait sans crainte, quoiqu'il n'ignore pas le jugement qu'en porte un système contraire, n'ignorant pas non plus les menaces extrêmes que les bruits publics leur annoncent. Si elles se vérifient ; si nous devons subir le sort des Frères de Dort, nous sommes assurés pardevers nous-mêmes que nous pourrons nous écrier avec eux :

*Iustum, & tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni
Mente quatit solidâ ;*

.
.

*Si fractus illabatur orbis,
Impavidum ferient ruinæ.*

Et prenant alors soin de rendre l'ame sur le lit d'honneur, nous ne réclamerons point, en rendant le dernier soupir, la vengeance d'un Etre tout-puissant ; mais nous nous approprions cette tendre prière : Seigneurs, pardonne ! ils ne savent Pas ce qu'ils font.



No. XXII.

MÉMOIRE présenté à L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs
États de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE, par
M. le Baron de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-
Extraordinaire de S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE.

NOBLES, GRANDS, & PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

LE Roi n'a pu apprendre qu'avec une forte sensibilité l'attentat commis près de Schoonhoven contre la personne de son auguste Sœur, que les vues les plus salutaires conduisoient à la Haye. S. A. R. retardée dans sa route, s'est vue entourée de gardes ; & des gens armés ont même été placés dans son appartement. C'est par ordre exprès de S. M. *Prussienne*, que le soussigné, son Envoyé-Extraordinaire, a l'honneur de s'adresser à V. N. & G. P. pour insister de la manière la plus pressante & la plus forte sur une satisfaction éclatante de cette injure, & sur la punition de ceux qui l'ont commise. Il s'empressera à instruire le Roi, son maître, de l'impression que les représentations de son Ministre auront produite sur l'Assemblée Souveraine de la Hollande. S. M. jugera, par le résultat des délibérations de V. N. & G. P. à cet égard, du prix auquel elles évaluent son amitié & sa bienveillance.

À la Haye, le 10 Juillet 1787.

No. XXIII.

RÉPONSE de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs États de
HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE, à M. le Baron
de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de
S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE.

A la Haye, le 14 Juillet 1787.

QUE L. N. & G. P. ont trop des égards pour S. M. le Roi de *Prusse* & pour son illustre Maison, pour pouvoir souffrir qu'il fût commis dans ce pays quelque attentat (expression dont s'est servi le susdit Envoyé) contre Madame la Princesse d'*Orange*, sœur de S. M. Qu'aussi, L. N. & G. P. ne sauroient douter que S. M. le Roi de *Prusse* ne veuille avoir pour L. N. & G. P. les égards que les Puissances Souveraines se doivent les unes aux autres : qu'ainsi L. N. & G. P. ne peuvent pas attendre de la façon de penser de S. M. que le Roi considérait comme des attentats contre la personne de S. A. R. les mesures de L. N. & G. P. qui, en qualité de seul & unique Souverain de cette province, ont cru devoir les prendre ; mesures, d'ailleurs, qui ne tendoient qu'à la conservation de la tranquillité publique, à la sûreté des habitans, & au bien-être de l'Etat ; & cela uniquement parce que S. A. R. s'est trouvée impliquée dans les mesures prises à ce sujet. Que L. N. & G. P. auroient désiré que S. M. eût été exactement informée, avant tout, des circonstances qui ont eu lieu dans ce cas singulier, par un récit fidèle de ce qui s'y est passé ; L. N. & G. P. ont raison de ne pas douter qu'alors le mémoire de M. l'Envoyé Thulemeyer n'auroit pas été remis comme il l'a été : que cependant, L. N. & G. P. ne sauroient attendre de l'élévation des sentimens de S. M. le Roi de *Prusse*, que ce

Monarque

Monarque voulût exiger que S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'Orange fût supérieure au Souverain même de cette province, &, sur ce fondement, que S. M. voulût aussi considérer comme un attentat, ou comme une injure faite à la personne de Madame sa Sœur, tous les empêchemens qu'elle a pu rencontrer dans son voyage pour se rendre à la Haye, voyage contraire aux intérêts de l'Etat.

Que cependant L. N. & G. P., pour donner une preuve éclatante du prix qu'elles mettent à l'amitié & à la bienveillance de S. M., ne font aucune difficulté de déclarer de leur côté, que quant à ce qui regarde le fait même, elles en ont été vivement touchées, & qu'elles ne désiroient rien avec plus d'ardeur, que d'avoir eu les moyens de le prévenir; qu'il est plus que vraisemblable qu'effectivement cet accident auroit été prévenu, si S. A. R., au lieu de partir à l'improviste, après une absence d'environ deux ans, pour rentrer sur le territoire de cette province, eût prévenu d'une manière convenable L. N. & G. P. du désir qu'elle avoit de venir dans la Maison du Bois (*près de la Haye*), & des motifs qui l'y conduisoient,—puisque, de cette façon, non-seulement L. N. & G. P. auroient été dans la possibilité de juger d'avance du fondement de ce désir, & des motifs de S. A. R., mais que même elles auroient pu faire part à Madame la Princesse des considérations que ce voyage devoit naturellement leur suggérer: que même alors L. N. & G. P. auroient pu, & auroient dû, faire ressouvenir Madame la Princesse de la manière que le Prince *Guillaume* quitta, avec toute sa famille, cette province, au mois de Septembre 1785.

Le mécontentement du Prince contre le Souverain de la province de Hollande, montré clairement, & à plusieurs reprises, rapproché d'une foule de démarches visiblement tendantes à faire sentir à cette province les suites & fruits

de ce mécontentement, & l'emploi même de toutes les forces de la République qui étoient sous sa main, dirigé à cette fin ; le contenu de ce déclaratoire, qui a fait tant de bruit, & donné par le susdit Prince, le 26 Mai dernier,—mémoire où l'on perd absolument de vue toutes les idées d'une reconnoissance effective de l'indépendance entière de la souveraineté de cette République, d'où il est résulté malheureusement que toutes les relations entre L. N. & G. P. & le *Stadhouder* actuel, sont devenues très-incertaines & très-indécises ; & enfin la division extrême qui règne dans les sentimens de la nation, dont la plus considérable & la plus respectable portion, en réclamant ses libertés, est extraordinairement prévenue contre le *Stadhouder*, en voyant clairement le but auquel il tend,—pendant qu'une autre partie, nourrissant des sentimens opposés, & que la populace trompée & sans jugement, comprise dans cette seconde portion, a déjà abusé de la manière la plus scandaleuse, en plusieurs endroits, du nom d'*Orange*, qu'elle en fait même un cri de révolte, pour ainsi ouvrir la scène la plus affreuse de sédition & de destruction ; que tout cela méritant les plus sérieuses considérations, auroit pu être remis sous les yeux de S. A. R. comme pouvant beaucoup influer sur la tranquillité de cette province : que de plus, par rapport au dessein & au motif du voyage de Madame la Princesse d'*Orange*, on auroit pu aussi lui représenter, qu'autant que son arrivée ici pouvoit avoir pour objet de faire disparaître, soit par son entremise, soit en entamant des conférences avec le Souverain, tous les différens & les dissensions qui se sont élevées dans l'Etat ; que ce but, quelque louable & quelque estimable qu'il soit en lui-même, considéré dans son principe général, n'auroit jamais produit cependant le fruit qu'on s'en étoit promis, vu le manque d'impartialité nécessaire ; impartialité, qu'après tout ce qui est arrivé, la nation ne pourroit pas supposer dans Madame la Princesse ; impartialité néanmoins
qui

qui est la première qualité requise dans une médiatrice, puisque les conférences qu'on avoit en vue d'entamer n'auroient au moins pu avoir lieu, aussi long-tems que le *Stadhouder*, comme principale personne, auroit persévéré opiniâtrement dans sa façon de penser & d'agir connue, contre le Souverain de cette province ; supposé toutefois, que les termes de médiation, & autres dont on s'est servi, puissent être employés dans un sens propre, entre le *Stadhouder* & son Souverain, ou la personne qui l'auroit représenté. Que conséquemment L. N. & G. P. n'auroient pu s'empêcher de conclure de toutes ces considérations, les choses étant ainsi, que, d'un côté, il auroit été impossible que l'arrivée de Madame la Princesse dans cette province eût contribué aux desseins pacifiques qu'elle dit avoir eus ; que d'un autre côté, le but de sa venue ayant malheureusement été trompé, ce voyage même devoit être différé encore pour quelque tems, pour contribuer au repos & à la tranquillité de cette province, qui étoit sans doute le but que S. A. R. proposoit, en venant à la maison du Bois. Ce retard étoit indispensable pour éviter les nouvelles agitations que l'arrivée de S. A. R. auroit infailliblement causées dans les esprits, dont la façon de penser est si différente : que par l'occasion qu'elle auroit donnée à une populace emportée, cette populace, sous les apparences de se livrer à une joie publique, dans l'idée fautive de s'acquitter par-là de ses devoirs envers la Maison d'*Orange* & de lui faire honneur, auroit lâché la bride aux désirs qu'on nourrit & qu'on excite parmi elle, & se seroit livrée à la sédition & au désordre de toute espèce, au grand préjudice du pays & des citoyens qui l'habitent : l'expérience malheureuse de ce qui est arrivé dans plus d'une province le même jour qu'on croyoit Madame la Princesse arrivée à la Haye, les séditions affreuses, les pillages, & les cruautés auxquelles on s'y est livré précisément ce même jour, ne confirment mal-

heureusement

heureusement que trop, les considérations que nous venons d'indiquer sur les suites infaillibles qu'auroit eues l'arrivée de Madame la Princesse à la maison du Bois.

Que L. N. & G. P. pensent, que ces réflexions appuyées par des instances telles que l'importance de la chose les exigeoient, mises sous les yeux de S. A. R. l'auroient convaincue de la convenance & de la nécessité de différer ce voyage ; que par-là Madame la Princesse auroit compris l'importance pour elle, de travailler de concert avec L. N. & G. P. au bien-être du pays, & à y rétablir la tranquillité & le bon ordre ; & que de plus elle auroit empêché que son but louable & pacifique n'eût précisément tourné contre son intention, au détriment de la chose publique, en le faisant servir elle-même de prétexte au tumulte & au pillage, qui auroient été les suites infaillibles de son arrivée dans la province : L. N. & G. P. pensent avec d'autant plus de confiance, que ces réflexions auroient fait une vive impression, qu'elles veulent bien se persuader que S. A. R. auroit été réellement disposée à prouver par des effets, les sentimens estimables qu'elle a déclaré avoir pour le bien de l'Etat.

Que cependant l'arrivée imprévue de S. A. R. que certainement qui que ce soit, connoissant l'état des choses, n'auroit pu prévoir, ayant ôté toute occasion à L. N. & G. P. de faire part de leurs susdites considérations à Mad. la Princesse, doit être considérée comme l'unique cause de l'accident qui fait le sujet du mémoire de M. l'Envoyé-Extraordinaire ; accident auquel L. N. & G. P. ont été certainement aussi sensibles, que S. M. le Roi de *Prusse* a pu l'être lui-même.

Que néanmoins, pour ce qui regarde cette arrivée, à laquelle personne ne devoit s'attendre, & attendu que

L. N.

L. N. & G. P. par cette raison, l'ignorant eux-mêmes, ne pouvoient donner aucuns ordres quelconques qui y fussent relatifs, l'empêchement qui a été apporté à la continuation du susdit voyage de S. A. R. ne doit paroître étrange à qui que ce soit, puisque, comme L. N. & G. P. en ont été informées dans la suite, MM. leurs Députés, chargés des moyens de défense de cette province, & auxquels il avoit été particulièrement enjoint d'écarter tout ce qui pouvoit être préjudiciable à cette province, en vertu de leur obligation à cet égard, avoient donné un ordre général d'arrêter toute personne quelconque qui voudroit entrer dans la province, sans aucune exception, & dont la présence pourroit être nuisible à la tranquillité publique, de la retenir jusqu'à ce que MM. les susdits Députés auroient donné des ordres ultérieurs à ce sujet : qu'en conséquence de cet ordre général, qui a été donné sans penser absolument d'un voyage que Madame la Princesse pourroit faire dans cette province, S. A. R. a été effectivement retenue : il ne peut donc pas paroître aucunement étrange, que les susdits Députés, ayant été promptement informés du fait, aient fait difficulté de permettre que Madame la Princesse poursuivît son voyage, & qu'avant tout, ils aient voulu connoître l'intention de Leurs Hauts-Commettans, qui devoit leur être parfaitement inconnue pour ce cas particulier & imprévu ; sur-tout MM. les Députés, auxquels l'état des choses étoient parfaitement connu, & qui déjà n'ignoroient pas les mouvemens que le voyage de Madame la Princesse avoit occasionnés, pouvoient facilement prévoir combien cette venue donneroit occasion aux troubles & aux déprédations, dont il a été parlé plus haut ; & qu'ainsi, considérant que le secret soigneusement gardé sur ce voyage, & la manière cachée dont il avoit été entrepris, en rendoit les effets possibles d'autant plus dangereux du moins pour L. N. & G. P. l'on ne peut pas dire qu'ils aient outre-passé les bornes d'une prudence nécessaire, lorsque, craignant de prendre pour leur compte les suites

dangereuses

dangereuses qui étoient plus que probables, ils ont persuadé à S. A. R. de suspendre son voyage, jusqu'à ce qu'ils eussent reçu les ordres de L. N. & G. P. & qu'on eût le tems de prendre les mesures pour la conservation du repos public.

Que tout ce qui a eu lieu dans cette rencontre, pour autant que L. N. & G. P. en sont informées, s'est passé d'une manière très-décente ; de sorte que quelques-uns des Messieurs les Commissaires susdits ont même accompagné S. A. R. à sa propre réquisition, & pour la sûreté de sa personne, avec une escorte de cavaliers jusqu'à Schoonhoven : qu'arrivée en cette ville, & y étant restée un peu plus d'un jour, S. A. R. a jugé à propos, après avoir appris les délibérations provisionnelles de L. N. & G. P. sur cette affaire, de retourner à Nimègue ; dessein à l'exécution duquel elle n'a éprouvé aucune opposition quelconque ; preuve évident qu'on ne lui a ôté rien de sa liberté, tandis que de plus, il n'est parvenu, ni par les lettres de S. A. R. ni d'ailleurs, aucunes plaintes à L. N. & G. P. soit au sujet de la conduite tenue par MM. les Commissaires susdits envers S. A. R. dans cette rencontre, soit sur tel autre fait quelconque, qui eût seulement l'ombre d'un traitement indécent ou injurieux, ou d'un manque d'égards convenables pour son illustre personne ; au sujet de quoi L. N. & G. P. pourroient se croire en quelque façon autorisées ou en droit de décerner quelque peine ou correction envers MM. les Commissaires susdits, dont la démarche a prévenu plus que probablement un tumulte populaire.

Que L. N. & G. P. s'affurent avec raison, que S. M. Prussienne, après avoir reçu ces détails, voudra bien se convaincre, qu'elle n'avoit pas été informée auparavant, avec l'impartialité requise, concernant le fait mentionné dans

dans le mémoire de M. l'Envoyé-Extraordinaire de Thulemeyer : que de plus M. de Thulemeyer sera prié d'affurer S. M. *Prussienne*, que L. N. & G. P. mettant le plus haut prix à l'amitié de S. M. souhaitent d'en donner les preuves les plus indubitables dans toutes les occasions, particulièrement aussi de leur considération & de leurs égards pour la personne de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'*Orange* & de *Nassau* ; mais qu'elles croient aussi pouvoir attendre en même tems de l'équité de S. M. qu'elle n'exigera jamais de leur part qu'elles négligent en quelque façon de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires, auxquelles tout Souverain est indispensablement tenu & obligé pour la conservation du repos & du bien-être des citoyens confiés à ses soins ; tandis que finalement L. N. & G. P. peuvent encore donner à S. M. *Prussienne* l'assurance la plus plénière, que dans leurs délibérations ultérieures sur cet objet, elles ne feront mus par aucun autre motif que par ceux qui tendent au but salutaire de la tranquillité publique.

No. XXIV.

MÉMOIRE présenté à L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs
Etats de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE, par
M. le Baron de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-
Extraordinaire de S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE.

A la Haye, le 6 Août 1787.

NOBLES, GRANDS, & PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

LE souffigné, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M. *Prussienne*, a fait parvenir aux mains du Roi son maître, la résolution que V. N. & G. P. lui ont fait remettre en réponse de son mémoire du 10 Juillet, touchant l'attentat

G

commis

commis contre la personne de l'auguste Sœur de ce Monarque.

Le Roi n'a pu apprendre qu'avec une surprise extrême, qu'au lieu de remplir sa juste attente par l'offre d'une satisfaction proportionnée à l'insulte, on ait préféré d'appuyer une réponse évasive par des argumens insuffisans. S. M. ne vous dissimulera point, N. G. & P. S., que l'ignorance prétendue des motifs qui ont conduit S. A. R. à la Haye, & l'appréhension d'une commotion populaire, ne coloreront jamais à ses yeux les procédés de la Commission siégeante à Woerden. Un tel soupçon énoncé avec publicité, est une nouvelle offense. La parole de la Princesse, sa déclaration solennelle, de n'entreprendre le voyage de la Haye que par les vues les plus pures, celles de rapprocher les esprits, & de moyenner des voies de conciliation, offroit aux Députés de V. N. & G. P. une conviction parfaite. Si le peuple, pénétré de reconnoissance pour l'illustre Maison des fondateurs de la liberté & de l'indépendance Belgique, avoit pu s'égarer ; si l'apparition de l'auguste Epouse du Stadhouder avoit produit des démonstrations d'une joie inquiétante pour la tranquillité publique, les moyens de mettre la résidence du Souverain à l'abri de toute atteinte & d'un danger vraisemblablement exagéré, se trouvoient, N. G. & P. S., à votre disposition.

Les soins d'ailleurs avec lesquels S. A. R. a prévenu les témoignages d'un zèle imprudent, en déroband au public la connoissance de son arrivée prochaine, étoient de nouveaux titres à la gratitude du gouvernement.

C'est à la Haye, N. G. & P. S. c'est dans votre résidence, où chaque citoyen doit jouir d'une liberté plénière, établie par la sagesse éclairée de vos ancêtres, qu'on prend la résolution de défendre l'entrée dans la province de Hollande à

la Sœur d'un grand Monarque, à l'Epouse d'un Prince revêtu des premières dignités de votre Etat. Le Roi ne s'occupera point à rechercher la légitimité du droit de résistance que la Commission de Woerden s'est attribué dans cette occasion. S. M. fixera d'autant plus son attention sur la manière dont il a été mis en exécution. Des gens armés ont entouré l'équipage de S. A. R. & le cortège qui l'a suivi étoit plutôt celui d'un prisonnier d'état, que d'une grande Princesse,—respectable par son illustre naissance, par ses qualités éminentes, par ses vertus, & par les sentimens qu'elle a consacrés de tout tems à la République. A peine S. A. R. s'est-elle rendue à Schoonhoven, qu'on établit des gardes dans toutes les avenues de la maison, & qu'un officier est même placé dans son appartement, armé d'une épée nue. Des procédés aussi offensans ont fait une impression profonde sur l'esprit du Roi mon maître ; & S. M. envisage cette injure *comme faite à elle-même*. C'est en conformité des ordres exprès de ce Monarque, que le soussigné réclame de nouveau de la part de V. N. & G. P. une satisfaction prompte & proportionnée à l'insulte. S. M. m'enjoint de plus de ne point leur laisser ignorer qu'elle insistera invariablement sur cette satisfaction, & qu'elle ne se contentera point d'une discussion de faits isolés, d'excuses vagues, ou de défaites ultérieures. Le Roi ne méconnoît point les égards dus à la République des Provinces-Unies & à l'illustre Assemblée des Etats-généraux qui représente la souveraineté de l'Etat envers les Puissances étrangères. S. M. se plaît à applaudir avec une sensibilité reconnaissante au désaveu éclatant que L. H. P. ont manifesté à l'égard des mesures adoptées en Hollande sur l'affaire qui fait le sujet du présent mémoire. Les témoignages d'amitié que le Roi & ses augustes prédécesseurs se sont empressés de donner à la République des Provinces-Unies dans plus d'une occasion intéressante & critique pour elle, autorisent S. M. à attendre de la part de L. N. & G. P. un juste retour

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d'égards,

d'égards, & la réparation des griefs que le soussigné est chargé de leur énoncer réitérativement : c'est de votre prudence, N. G. & P. S., & de la reprise de vos délibérations ultérieures sur cet objet, que le Roi attend une réponse prompte & satisfaisante.

(*Etoit signé*) DE THULEMEYER.

No. XXV.

RÉPONSE de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs États de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE, à M. le Baron de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE.

A la Haye, le 8 Septembre 1787.

QUE L. N. & G. P. ont répondu au premier Mémoire, présenté par M. de Thulemeyer de la part de S. M. *Prussienne*, dans la ferme persuasion, qu'étant éclairée à l'égard des faits qui regardent le voyage connu de Madame la Princesse d'*Orange*, elle ne suspecteroit plus L. N. & G. P. de desseins qu'elles n'ont jamais eus, & qu'elles se croient obligées de désavouer de la manière la plus solennelle : qu'en conséquence S. M. *Prussienne* ne trouveroit rien dans le procédé de L. N. & G. P. sinon l'emploi de telles précautions que, dans leur opinion, quoiqu'à leur grande douleur, les circonstances avoient rendues nécessaires ; précautions qui, à ce que L. N. & G. P. croient, auroient été prises par tout Souverain, que même il eût été de son devoir de prendre en pareille conjoncture.

Qu'aujourd'hui,

Qu'aujourd'hui, après avoir de nouveau considéré cette matière avec l'attention la plus scrupuleuse, L. N. & G. P. se sont trouvées dans l'obligation de persister dans leur sentiment, *qu'il n'a point été commis d'attentat quelconque envers la personne de Madame la Princesse d'Orange*, ainsi que S. M. Prussienne le verra constaté de la manière la plus évidente & la plus complete par le récit de ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion ; rapport qui a été fait en vertu de l'ordre exprès de L. N. & G. P., par leur Commission établie à Woerden pour la défense de cette province, & qu'elles ont l'honneur de joindre à la présente, ainsi qu'une lettre des Bourgmestres & Conseil de la ville de Schoonhoven concernant le même sujet. Qu'il constera sur-tout, par ces pièces, que le fait qu'on représente ultérieurement, dans ladite note de M. l'Envoyé-Extraordinaire de Thulemeyer, comme arrivé à S. A. R. près de l'écluse de Goverwel, n'a pas eu lieu par ordre ou de la part de cette Commission, puisqu'elle n'a pas été présente dans cet endroit, lorsqu'on arrêta le voyage ultérieur de S. A. R. ; que cette Commission n'en a même eu aucune connoissance ; & qu'au contraire elle a traité S. A. R. avec toute la distinction & l'attention possible, au point même que S. A. R. l'a remerciée à Schoonhoven, d'une manière amicale, des égards qui lui avoient été témoignés, & qu'ensuite elle a fait réitérer encore une fois le même compliment, en son nom, par M. de Bentinck ; tandis que L. N. & G. P. ne font pas la moindre difficulté de déclarer, *qu'au cas que dans cette rencontre, où l'on a arrêté le trajet ultérieur de S. A. R., il fût arrivé quelque chose d'irrégulier, ou de contraire aux égards qui lui sont dûs, elles le déjournent de la manière la plus satisfaisante.* Que, d'après ce qu'on vient de dire, L. N. & G. P. pensent qu'il sera constaté également, qu'on doit avoir représenté sous un faux jour les marques d'honneur & les témoignages de respect qui ont été donnés par la susdite Commission, ou de sa part,

à S. A. R. Que L. N. & G. P. ne peuvent non plus avoir eu l'idée de suspecter S. A. R. de vues finitres, ni avoir eu de la défiance à l'égard de la sincérité de ses motifs, pour ce qui concerne son dessein de se rendre à la Haye : qu'ainsi, à ce sujet, il n'y a pas eu la moindre offense de la part de L. N. & G. P. ; qu'au contraire elles ont toujours dû être précédemment, & doivent encore être aujourd'hui, dans la persuasion de la pureté des vues qui ont dirigé S. A. R. ; mais que, comme cette Princesse ne pouvoit être garante de la fermentation d'une populace aveugle & d'une multitude séduite, les Commissaires de L. N. & G. P. se sont vus dans la nécessité de prévenir un éclat qu'ils étoient convaincus devoir être causé par l'arrivée subite, inattendue, & secrète, de S. A. R., & dont il auroit pu résulter des scènes de carnage & de confusion, qui auroient dû frapper le cœur de S. A. R. de la manière la plus sensible, en la rendant témoin de ces funestes effets de sa venue inopinée, mais qu'alors elle auroit été dans l'impossibilité de prévenir.

Que si cette Princesse, considérant sa qualité d'épouse de M. le *Stadhouder*, avoit pris la précaution, qui étoit si naturelle, de prévenir L. N. & G. P. de ses desseins, elles auroient eu l'occasion de lui mettre sous les yeux leurs considérations à cet égard, tant par rapport à la conjoncture actuelle, qui rendoit l'exécution du dessein de S. A. R. très-épineuse, que relativement aux moyens qui auroient été les plus propres à rétablir la tranquillité & l'union dans ce pays, & par conséquent à remplir les vues de S. A. R. Que ces sentimens & cette disposition de L. N. & G. P. sont encore les mêmes ; & qu'ainsi ils peuvent être témoins du regret qu'elles ont de la nécessité où s'est trouvée Madame la Princesse de suspendre son voyage : que L. N. & G. P. manifestent d'autant plus volontiers les sentimens qui les animent à cet égard, qu'elles se flattent de donner
par-là

par-là satisfaction à S. M. *Prussienne*. Que dans les mêmes intentions, non moins que pour convaincre S. M. *Prussienne* de leur désir de conserver son affection & son amitié, L. N. & G. P. assurent S. M. que, bien loin qu'elles aient dessein de s'opposer au voyage que Madame la Princesse d'*Orange* feroit encore dans l'intention de faire à la Haye, L. N. & G. P. inviteront, au contraire, avec plaisir S. A. R. à effectuer ce voyage, aussitôt que la tranquillité générale permettra que l'entreprise de ce voyage ait lieu sans danger ; danger néanmoins que L. N. & G. P. croient même encore aujourd'hui ne pouvoir s'éviter d'une manière satisfaisante, & qui rassure parfaitement les citoyens du pays : mais que L. N. & G. P. souhaitent sur-tout que S. A. R., en conséquence des vues louables qui la guident, pour coopérer à une réconciliation, diffère sa venue jusqu'à ce que cet ouvrage salutaire puisse s'entreprendre, c'est à-dire, jusqu'à ce qu'on aura pu assurer la tranquillité générale. Que L. N. & G. P. se flattent que ces explications où elles viennent d'entrer, satisferont pleinement S. M. *Prussienne* ; qu'elles dissiperont entièrement les nuages que des circonstances inattendues qui font une peine infinie à L. N. & G. P. ont rassemblés au-dessus d'elles ; que S. M. *Prussienne* conservera pour elles les mêmes sentimens qu'elle a nourris jusqu'à présent à leur égard, à l'exemple de ses glorieux ancêtres ; & que par tous les bons offices de médiation qui sont en son pouvoir, elle voudra bien concourir, en bon voisin & ami, à aider de procurer à ce pays la tranquillité dont il se voit privé aujourd'hui, & qui fait le principal objet des soins & des vœux de Leurs Nobles & Grandes Puissances.

No. XXVI.

BILLET de M. de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE, à M. le Conseiller-Pensionnaire.

LE souffigné, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M. *Prussienne*, a été chargé des ordres les plus pressans du Roi son maître, d'exiger de nouveau des Etats de Hollande, & de la manière la plus pressante, de réparer l'insulte faite à la Sérénissime Princesse, Sœur de ce Monarque, telle que cette réparation a été suffisamment détaillée dans les deux mémoires du 10 Juillet & 6 Août, & de faire connoître leur résolution à ce sujet, *dans le terme péremptoire de quatre jours*, de même que la satisfaction qu'ils se chargeront de faire d'une manière proportionnée à l'insulte faite. Le souffigné a donné au Pensionnaire de Hollande, une pleine ouverture des conditions *raisonnables & modérées* que S. M. exige, & desquelles il donne un détail exact par la *Note Verbale*. Il ne doute aussi nullement, que M. le Conseiller-Pensionnaire ne manquera pas de convoquer le plus tôt possible, une Assemblée des Etats de Hollande; il ne lui cachera pas non plus, qu'en conséquence des instructions détaillées qui lui ont été apportées par un courier arrivé chez lui depuis peu d'heures, la résolution prise par L. N. & G. P. & qu'elles lui ont fait remettre en réponse du mémoire du 6 Août dernier, ne répond nullement à la juste attente de Sa Majesté.

La Haye, le 9 Septembre 1787.

D^E THULEMEYER.

NOTE VERBALE.

LES conditions que le Roi réclame touchant une satisfaction proportionnée à l'offense faite à l'auguste Sœur de ce Monarque, telles qu'elles pourroient réparer l'affront commis contre la personne de S. A. R., en s'opposant avec force au voyage que cette illustre Princesse, animée par les vues les plus salutaires, avoit projeté de faire à la Haye, sont celles que le Souffigné, Envoyé-Extraordinaire du Roi, détaillera par cette *Note Verbale* qu'il a l'honneur d'adresser à M. le Conseiller-Pensionnaire de Hollande, après lui avoir déjà communiqué de bouche, dans une conférence antérieure.

Le Roi s'attend que L. N. & G. P. écriront une lettre à S. A. R., qu'elles la feront connoître au Ministre de S. M. avant de la faire passer à sa destination, renfermant l'aveu de l'erreur de la supposition que cette Princesse avoit pu avoir des vues contraires au bien de la République; qu'elles lui feront des excuses de l'opposition faite à son voyage, & du manque d'égards dont S. A. R. a à se plaindre: que L. N. & G. P. s'engageront de punir, à la réquisition de la Princesse, ceux qui pourroient s'être rendus coupables d'offenses contre son auguste personne; qu'elles révoqueront les résolutions injurieuses & erronées qui avoient été prises à l'occasion de ce voyage; révocation qui sera accompagnée de l'invitation, que S. A. R. se rende à la Haye, pour entrer en négociation avec elle, au nom du Prince *Stadhouder*, afin de concilier, par un arrangement convenable, les différens qui subsistent actuellement.

Le Souffigné est autorisé de déclarer d'ailleurs à M. le Conseiller-Pensionnaire, que dans le cas où L. N. & G. P. se prêteront sans difficulté à une satisfaction aussi modérée, S. A. R. interviendra auprès du Roi, son auguste Frère,

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pour

pour borner toute réclamation ultérieure de satisfaction à cet égard.

Il aura de plus l'honneur de vous informer, Monsieur, que si, dans la suite, la fixation du siège de la négociation à la Haye rencontroit quelques difficultés, on pourroit faire choix de quelque ville neutre, pour s'occuper des négociations qui serviroient de base à la conciliation & à la médiation.

Le Souffigné ne dissimulera point à M. le Conseiller-Pensionnaire, que S. M. attend de la manière la plus expresse, que dans l'intervalle les Etats de Hollande laisseront subsister au moins les choses dans leur état actuel ; qu'on ne procédera à aucune suspension, destitution, ni à d'autres mesures offensantes & préjudiciables pour la personne du Prince *Stadhouder*, Capitaine & Amiral Général, puisque par-là on rendroit toute conciliation illusoire & impossible, & qu'on accumulerait les offenses.

No. XXVII.

RÉPONSE de L. N. & G. P. les Seigneurs États de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE à M. le Baron de THULEMEYER, Envoyé-Extraordinaire de S. M. le Roi de PRUSSE.

A la Haye, le 12 Septembre 1787.

QUE les Etats ne pouvoient entrer en délibération sur les points énoncés dans la Note de M. de Thulemeyer ; qu'ils consentoient néanmoins à envoyer à Berlin deux
Députés

Députés de leurs Membres, pour instruire S. M. sur les détails erronés qui lui avoient été faits, relativement à l'empêchement mis au voyage de la Princesse d'Orange à la Haye.

No. XXVIII.

INSTRUCTIONS données à MM. Abbema & Goll, Conseillers de Régence, à M. Gale-Isaac Gales, Capitaine d'une Compagnie Bourgeoise, de la part du Grand-Conseil de Guerre, & à M. Luden, un des Constitués du Peuple.

ART. I. **M**ESSIEURS les Commissaires demanderont à S. A. S. quelles sont les raisons qui l'ont portée à faire menacer la ville d'Amsterdam d'une attaque hostile, puisque la Régence de cette ville n'a fait aucune offense à S. M. Prussienne, dont M^{gr} le Duc commande les troupes.

II. Au cas que S. A. S. M^{gr} le Duc avançât, que S. M. Prussienne exige une satisfaction pour Madame la Princesse d'Orange, à l'occasion de l'empêchement mis à son fameux voyage de la Haye, MM. les Commissaires représenteront, qu'il y a eu pour cela les plus grandes raisons, & que ces raisons suffisamment connues avoient nécessité cette démarche ; mais qu'en même tems, pour lever cette difficulté, le vénérable Conseil de cette ville est prêt de donner à M^{gr} le Duc des éclaircissemens convenables & convainquans, & d'entrer sur ce sujet en un pourparler propre à lever tous les doutes ; étant prêts aussi de re-

mettre à S. A. S. un exemplaire françois de toutes les pièces ministérielles relatives à cette matière.

III. Que cette Ville attend que S. A. S. n'entreprendra pas une attaque, ou une invasion sur son territoire, qui déjà par l'inondation partielle qu'on s'est vu obligé de faire, comme étant la seule défense propre à préserver cette ville, lui a néanmoins causé un grand dommage ; & qui d'ailleurs ne pourroit manquer de faire couler des flots de sang, & livreroit la ville au pillage & au meurtre : malheurs qui seroient suivis de la ruine de cette ville, de celle de la Province de Hollande, & qui ne pourroient aussi manquer de naître hautement, même aux Etats de S. M. *Prussienne*, à toute l'*Europe* enfin, par rapport à l'intérêt général du commerce, à cause de la perte des bénéfices qui en résultent, en particulier des péages sur le Rhin, qui en seroient la suite infaillible.

IV. Qu'en conséquence, la Régence avoit décerné cette commission solennelle, pour donner à S. A. S. toutes les ouvertures & les éclaircissmens nécessaires sur le véritable état des choses : qu'elle osoit se promettre, de la manière de penser généreuse de S. A. & de l'élévation de ses sentimens, que M^{gr} le Duc voudra bien remettre sous les yeux de S. M. *Prussienne*, ces ouvertures *sincères*, afin que le sujet du mécontentement de S. M. tombant par le fait même, & ne subsistant plus, S. M. en soit d'autant plus disposée à recevoir les témoignages réitérés de la *haute estime* que cette ville désire sincèrement de conserver pour le Roi, & pour toute son illustre Maison, & qu'ainsi S. M. puisse prendre la résolution de faire retirer ses troupes de tout le territoire de la République, au moins, dans tous les cas, de convenir d'une cessation d'hostilités & d'une armistice réciproque.

Amsterdam, le 26 Septembre 1787.

No. XXIX.

No. XXIX.

NOTE de Monseigneur le Duc de BRUNSWICK, commandant en Chef l'Armée de S. M. PRUSSIENNE dans la Province de HOLLANDE, remise à MM. les quatre Commissaires de la ville d'AMSTERDAM, envoyés vers S. A. S. pour tâcher de convenir d'une satisfaction à faire à S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE, par la Régence d'AMSTERDAM.

LA satisfaction que S. M. *Prussienne* demande, doit, comme vous sentirez vous-mêmes, Messieurs, être entièrement conforme aux Articles énoncés dans le dernier Mémoire de M. de Thulemeyer.

Tous les autres Membres des Etats de la Province sont prêts à donner cette satisfaction, & n'attendent que votre concurrence. Du moment que vous y aurez consenti par vos Députés aux Etats, je regarde ma commission comme terminée, & les troues du Roi quitteront immédiatement le voisinage de votre ville, & les places circonjacentes. Vous connoissez trop bien, Messieurs, les sentimens de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'Orange, pour douter qu'elle n'aimera mieux passer sur beaucoup de choses, que d'exposer votre ville à des inconvéniens fâcheux.

Leymuiden, le 27 Septembre 1787.

(Signé)

CHARLES, Duc-Régnant
de BRUNSWICK LUNEMBOURG.

No. XXX.

No. XXX.

NOTE remise par S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'ORANGE, aux Députés de la Ville d'AMSTERDAM.

A la Haye, le 29 Septembre 1787.

JE sens, Messieurs, avec la plus grande satisfaction, que le langage de mon cœur s'accorde parfaitement avec les idées de générosité que vous voulez bien reconnoître en moi ; je ne désire en effet rien moins que la punition des torts qu'on s'est permis vis-à-vis de moi.

Je suis profondément affectée du sort des auteurs & des instigateurs de ces torts, & bien particulièrement de l'état de calamité dans lequel la ville d'Amsterdam se voit réduite. Je ne désire rien avec plus d'ardeur que de voir assurer les moyens & les résolutions, qui doivent faire évanouir les désordres & les injustices précédentes, rétablir les régences constitutionnelles, & les prémunir contre tout armement dangereux des habitans ; & par ce moyen pouvoir rétablir la tranquillité publique, & rendre à la patrie son ancien bien-être & prospérité. Je m'offre avec plaisir, en me contentant de vos témoignages, d'engager le Roi mon Frère à se départir de tout autre point de satisfaction, & à faire retirer ses troupes de devant votre ville, aussitôt que la sincérité de ces témoignages me sera confirmée par la concurrence de la ville d'Amsterdam, par l'accession à toutes les résolutions qui ont été prises ces jours pour le rétablissement des affaires, agissant aussi de concert avec les autres Membres des Etats de cette province, pour prendre telles autres mesures & résolutions salutaires, propres à remplir mes vœux les plus purs,

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& le but de la prospérité que je me propose de faire renaître dans la patrie. J'aurois fait néanmoins de grandes difficultés de me rendre ici sur l'invitation qui m'en a été faite par les Seigneurs Etats, s'ils n'y avoient ajouté l'assurance que mon Epoux feroit rétabli en tout. A cette fin je m'assure qu'on ne croira pas que je désire voir les susdits auteurs & instigateurs attaqués, ni dans leur honneur, ni dans leurs biens, & beaucoup moins exposés à perdre la vie ; mais que, sans soupçons ultérieurs, ils soient démis de leurs postes, dans lesquels ils pourroient encore exciter de nouveaux embarras.

(*Etoit signé*)

WILHELMINE.

NO. XXXI.

POINTS de Capitulation proposés par MM. les
Députés-Commissaires de la ville d'AMSTER-
DAM, à MM. les Députés-Commissaires de
L. N. & G. P.

ART. I. *Il sera accordé une influence convenable au peuple dans l'administration.*—RE'PONDU, “ Qu'attendu qu'il y a actuellement une Commission des Etats, nommée pour examiner ce point, il faut en attendre le rapport.”

Art. II. *Que la Bourgeoisie doit rester armée, comme elle l'a toujours été.*—RE'PONDU, “ Que toutes les Bourgeoisies constitutionnelles doivent conserver leurs armes, si cela est jugé nécessaire pour le repos des villes.”

Art. III.

Art. III. *Que la Régence actuelle & tous les citoyens en charge seront maintenus & conservés dans leurs postes respectifs.*—RE'PONDU, “ Ce point ne peut être accordé, puisqu'il est contraire à la résolution de L. N. & G. P. du 22 Septembre, par laquelle toutes les remotions ont été déclarées illégales & violentes, & qu'il est ordonné de rétablir le tout sur l'ancien pied.”

Art. IV. *Que la ville sera exempte de garnison & de logement de troupes.*—RE'PONDU, “ Que ce point peut être accordé, conformément à la satisfaction accordée à la ville d'Amsterdam en l'année 1578.”

Art. V. *Qu'on ne sera pas obligé de publier à Amsterdam, le placard qui permet de porter des cocardes oranges, & autres marques de cette couleur ; qu'il ne convient pas qu'on y porte cette couleur, pour éviter les excès qui certainement en feroient la suite.* RE'PONDU, “ Qu'on peut se montrer facile sur ce point, pourvu que ceux qui porteront cette couleur ne soient molestés en rien.”

Art. VI. *Que toutes les personnes, soit politiques, soit militaires, qui se sont retirées dans cette ville, ou dans d'autres places qui servent à couvrir Amsterdam, ou même qui ont été prises sous la protection de la susdite ville, ne pourront être molestées ici dans leurs biens, ni dans leurs personnes, & que dans ce nombre doivent être compris tous les Membres de cette ville, & même ceux de l'Etat qui ont été employés dans des commissions d'Etat.*—RE'PONDU, “ Que les Commissaires-Députés de L. N. & G. P. ne peuvent rien statuer sur cet article, parce qu'il est un de ceux qui sont compris dans la satisfaction que S. M. Prussienne pourroit exiger pour S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'Orange.”

No. XXXII.

NOTE envoyée par Monseigneur le Duc de
BRUNSWICK au Conseil de la Ville d'AMSTERDAM.

JE regarde la trêve comme expirée dès ce soir entre les sept & huit heures, temps où MM. les Députés pourront être de retour à Amsterdam. Je suis très-fermement résolu d'aller en avant & d'exécuter mes ordres, à moins que je ne reçoive une lettre de S. A. R. Madame la Princesse d'Orange, par laquelle elle me marque qu'elle ne désire d'autre satisfaction, & intercède pour m'engager à replier les troupes.

Leymuiden, le 30 Septembre, 1787.

(Signé) CHARLES, Duc-Régnant
de BRUNSWICK LUNEMBOURG.

No. XXXIII.

P L A C A R D.

LES Bourgmestres & Conseillers de la ville d'Amsterdam se trouvent obligés de déclarer à la bonne bourgeoisie qu'ils ont toujours tâché, selon leur propre conscience, à agir conformément au plus grand avantage de la chère patrie en général, & pour celui de cette ville, & bourgeoisie d'icelle en particulier ; & qu'encore, dans les circonstances actuelles, le bien-être de cette ville, & celui de ses habitans, leur est plus précieux que leur propre vie, & la conservation de leurs emplois honorables, & de leurs propriétés.

Le danger pressant & menaçant, & le peu de tems, qui ne leur a été même accordé qu'avec peine, pour délibérer, ne leur ayant pas permis de porter à la connoissance pléniaire de la bourgeoisie tout ce qui se passoit ; pour cette raison, & pour préserver cette bonne ville des maux plus accablans, & des malheurs qui certainement pendoient sur notre tête, ils se sont trouvés forcés d'accorder les points exigés par les autres Membres des Etats de Hollande, & de charger MM. les Députés de cette ville d'accorder toutes les demandes, s'ils ne peuvent faire autrement, même la démission des régens établis,—plutôt que de hasarder que cette ville & bourgeoisie d'icelle souffrent d'autre dommage ultérieur en sus des malheurs déjà soufferts continuellement,—& de risquer, après avoir souffert ces dommages, d'être forcés enfin de consentir à des prétentions, & peut-être d'accorder des demandes plus onéreuses encore. Ils prennent à témoin le Dieu auquel rien ne peut être caché, & le serment qu'ils ont fait en entrant dans la magistrature, de n'avoir eu autre chose en vue, en accordant tout, que de prévenir la ruine très-certaine & irréparable de la ville.

Puisqu'il a fallu tout céder & accorder, ils tâcheront au moins, & même ils espèrent de pouvoir conserver entièrement la tranquillité & la sûreté dans cette ville si peuplée ; à l'effet de quoi ils attendent avec confiance que la brave bourgeoisie, qui jusqu'ici s'est employée avec tant de zèle, & en faisant les plus louables efforts pour conserver cette tranquillité, continuera à mettre en œuvre ces mêmes efforts & ce même zèle, pour maintenir & assurer cette tranquillité publique dans cette ville, afin de préserver un chacun, quel qu'il puisse être, de toute violence & oppression.

Fait, le 3 Octobre 1787,

En foi de ce, par moi,

H. N. HASSELAER, Secrétaire.

No. XXXIV.

No. XXXIV.

EXTRAIT des Résolutions des Seigneurs États
de HOLLANDE & de WEST-FRISE, prises en
l'Assemblée de L. N. & G. P., Lundi, 8
Octobre 1787.

MM. van den Sandburchel, van der Gors, van Teylingen, & du Tour, avec le Conseiller-Pensionnaire, qui avoient été députés Samedi dernier pour demander à S. A. R. quelle satisfaction elle désiroit pour la lésion qui lui avoit été faite, en arrêtant le voyage qu'elle avoit entrepris pour se rendre ici, s'étant de nouveau rendus près de S. A. R. pour demander la réponse par écrit, qu'elle avoit promis de remettre à MM. les Commissaires susdits, ont exhibé à l'Assemblée la réponse par écrit qu'ils avoient reçue de S. A. R. insérée ci-après.

NOBLES, GRANDS, & PUISSANS SEIGNEURS,

AUTANT que j'ai été affectée de toutes les circonstances qui ont rendu nécessaires les instances du Roi, mon Frère, pour la satisfaction exigée, & qui ont consisté en grande partie dans les résolutions lésives prises par une petite majorité absolument illégale de l'Assemblée qui composoit alors les Seigneurs Etats de Hollande, contre les avis pressans, & revêtus des argumens les plus irréfragables, tant de Messieurs de l'Ordre Equestre, que des Députés des villes qui se sont opposées contre ladite majorité, qui faisoit passer tout ; autant suis-je sensible aujourd'hui à la proposition de cette Députation, faite du milieu d'une Assemblée de V. N. & G. P., qui a été constitutionnellement rétablie, & qui est composée de Commettans légitimes

& compétons. Je puis donc aussi confier en sûreté à cette Assemblée le soin de prendre toutes les résolutions & mesures, lesquelles doivent être arrêtées pour anéantir les résolutions & dispositions par lesquelles ladite ci-devant pluralité illégale n'a pas craint d'approuver & de louer la conduite des Commissaires à Woerden, & en général celle de tous les auteurs & coopérateurs de l'arrêt violent de ma personne ; & pour désavouer publiquement tout ce qui s'est passé lors de cet attentat sans exemple.

Loin, en attendant, de n'être pas touchée du sort de ceux qui doivent être tenus pour lesdits auteurs & coopérateurs coupables, je sens une véritable aversion de toute punition proprement dite, à infliger pour le tort qui a été faite à ma personne ; & mon attachement aux intérêts d'un pays qu'à titre de diverses relations je regarde comme ma patrie, ainsi que mon estime pour une nation libre, de laquelle j'ai reçu pendant environ vingt ans plusieurs marques d'affection, font que je ne souhaite rien avec plus d'ardeur, que de manifester ultérieurement par des preuves effectives les vrais sentimens de mon cœur, & d'adoucir le sort desdites personnes, autant que l'équité & le bien-être du pays peuvent le permettre, & sans blesser les égards que je dois à ma Maison, & à cette Nation même, dans la susdite relation.

Et comme, par les résolutions unanimes de V. N. & G. P. pour le rétablissement des droits héréditaires du Stadhouderat, ainsi que des autres dignités éminentes de S. A. S. mon Epoux, & pour l'avancement du repos, de l'harmonie, & de la confiance, dans la province, par l'anéantissement total des nouveautés dangereuses & illégales qu'on avoit introduites, & au moyen desquelles la chère patrie a été conduite sur le bord de sa ruine, je vois qu'il a déjà été satisfait en grande partie au vœu général de la partie beaucoup la plus nombreuse & la meilleure de cette même
nation,

nation, dont les vrais sentimens ont été étouffés depuis quelque tems par violence & par oppression ; & attendu qu'il est entièrement hors de mes vues de m'expliquer aujourd'hui sur des objets à l'égard desquels la justice pourroit juger qu'il est de son intérêt de devoir faire absolument des recherches juridiques, conformément aux loix du pays ; je me bornerai plutôt, pour prouver combien je suis éloignée de tout désir de voir porter atteinte à l'honneur ou aux biens, & sur-tout point aux vies, des susdits auteurs & coopérateurs, à demander à leur égard, que, restant pour toujours éloignés de ma Cour, ils soient & restent démis de tous les postes de gouvernement & d'administration,—afin que tout le public, qui a été lésé en ma personne, soit pleinement rassuré, que désormais il ne pourra plus être commis par eux de nouveaux excès, & causé des désagrémens pour le pays, pour la liberté, & pour la sûreté générale, & que ceci soit inféré & confirmé dans la sanction solennelle par laquelle V. N. & G. P. voudront bien ratifier toute cette affaire. C'est sur ce pied que pour moi-même j'acquiesce pleinement à la satisfaction qui m'est offerte aujourd'hui unanimement par V. N. & G. Puissances.

Au reste, aussitôt que tout ce que dessus aura reçu son plein & entier accomplissement ; que par la ville d'Amsterdam il aura été satisfait à tout ce que V. N. & G. P. ont résolu, & à tous les points de la satisfaction auxquels la ville a pleinement consenti ; & qu'en conséquence l'on aura effectivement exécuté, tant le rétablissement de la régence, que de la milice-bourgeoise, sur l'ancien pied légal, en désarmant les corps d'exercice associés ; je n'aurai rien de plus empreffé, que d'intercéder près de S. A. S. Mgr. le Duc de Brunswick, pour qu'il renonce à toutes entreprises ultérieures contre la ville d'Amsterdam, & au dessein de la réduire à un plus grand état d'angoisse ; & je prierai instamment

tamment le Roi, mon Frère, de s'en contenter avec moi, & de rappeler par conséquent ses troupes du territoire de la République.

Je proteste aussi de la manière la plus solennelle, que je ne désire rien avec plus d'ardeur, que de voir bientôt rétablir & assurer sur des fondemens solides, l'harmonie, le bien-être, & le lustre de cette nation jadis si heureuse, & qui m'a toujours été chère. Les efforts de mon côté seront non-interrompus & zélés, pour y coopérer toujours de toutes mes facultés ; & ainsi je tâcherai non-seulement d'oublier les torts passés, mais je m'estimerai heureuse en manifestant ultérieurement mes vœux les plus pures, & une tendre sollicitude pour le bien-être de la République, particulièrement aussi de cette province. Je continuerai infatigablement à cultiver les mêmes sentimens dans mes enfans, que j'ai tâché d'élever comme enfans de la patrie, afin qu'ils puissent se rendre dignes de l'estime, de l'amour, & de la confiance des régens & des habitans, & qu'ils les méritent constamment pour l'avantage & l'utilité du pays.

(Signé) WILHELMINE.

Sur quoi délibéré, il a été trouvé bon & arrêté de prier de nouveau MM. les Commissaires jussdits, en substituant M. le Conseiller Binkhorst à la place du Secrétaire du Tour, de la part de la ville d'Alkmaer, de se rendre encore une fois près de S. A. R. pour s'informer, quelles sont les personnes que dans sa réponse S. A. R. a eu en vue, comme étant les auteurs & coopérateurs de l'attentat commis envers sa personne.

Conformément à cette résolution, les Députés se sont encore rendus près de Madame la Princesse ; & S. A. R., a nommé alors, comme les personnes désignées dans sa réponse,

les

les Membres ou Ministres de la Régence, dont voici la liste.

M^e *Daniel Jaques Canter Camerling*, Conseiller de la ville de Haerlem.

M^e *François Gautier Blok*, Echevin de la ville de Leyde.

M^e *Jean de Witt*, Echevin de la ville d'Amsterdam.

M^e *Martin van Toulon*, Conseiller de la ville de Gouda.

M^e *Corneille van Foreest*, Seigneur de Schoorl & Camp, Conseiller de la ville d'Alkmaer.

———— *Costerus*, Secrétaire à Woerden.

M^e *Corneille Jean de Lunge*, Seigneur de Wyngaarden & Ruyghbroek, Conseiller de la ville de Gouda.

M^e *Corneille de Gyselaar*, Pensionnaire de la ville de Dordrecht.

M^e *Adrien van Zeebergh*, &

M^e *Pierre Léonard van de Kastele*, Pensionnaires de la ville de Haerlem.

M^e *Engelbert François van Berckel*, &

M^e *Charles Gautier Visscher*, Pensionnaires de la ville d'Amsterdam.

M^e *Louis Timon de Kempenaer*, Conseiller de la ville d'Alkmaer.

M^e *Adrien Pompée van Leyden*, Seigneur de Hardinxveldt,

M^e *Balthazar Elie Abbema*,

M^e *Louis Hovy*, le jeune, &

M^e *Jean Bernard Bicker*, tous quatre Conseillers d'Amsterdam, & Membres de la Commission établie pour la défense de la ville.

No. XXXV.

CAPITULATION D'AMSTERDAM.

ART. I. **L**ES troupes du Roi occuperont la porte de Leyde par un détachement de 150 hommes, 10 chasseurs, & 4 houffards ; 2 pièces de canon seront posées à portée de la porte.

Art. II. Deux batt. & des chasseurs feront logés à l'Overtoom.

Art. III. Personne des troupes du Roi n'entrera dans la ville, sans un concert préalable avec le Magistrat, afin de ne pas donner lieu à des mouvemens & exciter les esprits.

Art. IV. Les Bourgmestres & Conseillers de la ville prendront les mesures les plus justes pour garantir les écluses à la porte de Haerlem & à celle de Muiden.

Art. V. L'on me donnera journellement des informations légales, jusqu'à quel point les résolutions de l'Etat auxquelles la ville d'Amsterdam a déjà accédé, sont exécutées.

Art. VI. M. de Haren, en qualité de Commissaire de ma part, sera instruit de tout ce qui regarde la partie du désarmement, pour m'en rendre un compte exact.

Overtoom, le 10 Octobre 1787.

(Signé) CH. G. F. DUC DE BRUNSWICK.

DEDEL, Bourgmestre.

ELIAS, Arnaudtz.

BICKER, Conseiller.

No. XXXVI.

No. XXXVI.

É D I T.

LES Etats de Hollande & de West-Frise, à tous ceux qui verront ou entendront lire les présentes, salut. Ayant été positivement instruits, que nonobstant nos placards & nos publications précédens déjà émanés, quelques personnes mal-intentionnées & inquiètes ne se font aucune peine de troubler les habitans tant des villes que ceux du plat pays, dans cette province, & de les détourner de l'obéissance & du respect qu'ils doivent aux Etats de cette province, comme au suprême & légal Souverain du pays, & d'animer lesdits habitans, & de les engager à commettre des dérèglemens, & des choses dont on ne peut attendre que la plus grande dissension, révolte, & soulèvement, comme aussi un préjudice considérable au pays, & en particulier à nos bons habitans, lesquels par ce moyen, non-seulement eux-mêmes, mais aussi leurs femmes & leurs enfans, se précipitent dans un malheur fatale.

A ces causes, voulant prendre les précautions les plus sérieuses, nous avons trouvé bon d'exhorter, de la manière la plus sérieuse, & d'ordonner à tous les habitans de cette province, tant des villes que du plat pays, militaires, & autres personnes, de quelque état ou condition qu'elles soient, de se conduire paisiblement, & de concourir autant qu'il dépendra d'eux à l'avancement du repos général, & de se garder bien soigneusement de commettre quoi que ce soit qui puisse donner occasion à des commotions ou soulèvemens, ou à mépriser ou blesser le respect & l'obéissance dûs aux

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Seigneurs

Seigneurs les Etats, comme le suprême & légal Souverain de cette province.

Défendant bien expressement par celles-ci, de faire quelques mouvemens tumultueux, de crier *Orange boven*, de chanter, siffler, ou de jouer des airs à l'honneur du Prince (*Prince deuntjes*) & autres, concourant au déshonneur & au mépris des Etats du pays, ou à causer des commotions ; de courir par les rues avec des foi-disantes requêtes, ou d'obliger à en signer qui soient directement contraires à la volonté manifeste de L. N. & G. P., de même que de divulguer ou distribuer toutes les feuilles, libelles, chançons, ou gazettes séditieuses, sous quelque titre que ce puisse être ; sous peine, envers ceux qui s'en rendront coupables, d'être fouettés rigoureusement au corps, & même, selon l'exigence des cas, d'être punis par la corde jusqu'à ce que la mort s'ensuive : — lesquelles punitions se feront *de plano* & sans forme de procès envers ceux qui seront pris sur le fait.

Le tout, sauf nos placards & publications précédemment émanés contre ceux qui porteront des marques de parti, qui complotteront & causeront des émotions séditieuses, lesquels restent par celles-ci dans leur entier.

Nous ordonnons bien expressement à notre Procureur-général, de même qu'à notre Avocat-fiscal, & à tous les autres Officiers-juges, de faire observer & exécuter à la rigueur cette publication, & de s'y régler précisément, sans la moindre connivence ; sous peine, non-seulement de la privation de leurs charges, mais encore d'être corrigés ou punis, selon l'exigence des cas, si on trouve qu'ils n'ont pas satisfait à leur devoir, par négligence ou autrement : car nous l'avons trouvé bon pour le bien-être du pays.

Et afin que personne ne prétende l'ignorance de la présente, nous voulons qu'elle soit publiée & affichée là où il est nécessaire & accoutumé.

Fait à la Haye, sous le petit scel de la province, le 4
Juillet 1787.

(*Au bas étoit*) Par ordonnance des Etats.

(*Etoit signé*) C. CLOTTERBOOKE.



I DO not pretend, in the following pages, to give even a sketch of the Constitution of the United Provinces ; I mean nothing more, than to point out a few circumstances relating to it, which will make some of the præceding Letters more intelligible than they would otherwise appear to such persons as are wholly unacquainted with the subject.

No. XXXVII.

WHEN the Seven Provinces of Guelderland, Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, Friesland, Overijssel, and Groningen, threw off the Spanish yoke, they took care that each Province should be maintained in its former rights and privileges. That power, which before was possessed by Philip II. was now placed in the States; but whatever rights the Prince of Orange enjoyed as Governor of Holland and Zealand, were still continued in his person. As Captain-General and Admiral, he had the command of both the land and sea forces, with the disposal of military employments. He also possessed the right of pardoning criminals; and, which more than all the rest contributed to his influence in the government, he had a considerable share in the appointment of the Magistrates of the cities, which send Deputies to the Assembly of the States. When a vacancy of this kind took place, a list of three or more names was sent to the Prince by the Magistrates of the town; and out of that list, he named the person that should hold the office. Besides these privileges, the Prince of Orange, as Stadtholder, was appointed to be arbiter of whatever disputes might arise between the different Provinces or Cities. He had also a seat in the Council of State, though not in the Assemblies of the States-General, or the Provincial States. He was President of the Court of Justice; and he was the Minister by whom the decrees of the States were carried into execution. These were the chief of the privileges which were possessed by the Princes of the House of Orange till the death of William II. when no Stadtholder being chosen in his room, the different Towns assumed the right of electing their own Magistrates, the States of each Province had the appointment of those Officers who were paid by that Province, and the right of nominating the Commanders of fleets and armies was vested in the States-General.

When

When the Union was formed, the last-mentioned Assembly met as often as it was necessary: but as it consisted of near eight hundred persons, those meetings, if frequent, were found to be very troublesome, though still greater inconvenience arose from their being long interrupted. In order to remove this difficulty, it was agreed that a small number of Deputies of the Provinces should reside constantly at the Hague, with the title and authority of the States-General, which body has met but very seldom since that time.—The present Assembly of the States-General, is composed of Deputies sent by the different Provinces in whatever number they think proper: the number is indeed of little consequence, since, whether it is great or small, each Province has but one vote in the Assembly. Some of the Provinces continue their Deputies for a longer, and some for a shorter time; a few, are even sent for life. The Deputies are not, like Members of the English Parliament, at liberty to vote and act as they think proper, but are obliged in the strictest manner to obey the orders of their constituents. Each Province presides in its turn, and most questions are determined by a majority of the Provinces; but in some cases unanimity is required. This Assembly possesses a sovereign power no farther than in what concerns that country which was conquered from the Spaniards, which does not belong to any particular Province, but is the property of the whole, and is therefore called, the Country of the Generality. In all matters of importance, the States-General, being only representatives of Sovereign States, must consult their principals; and in cases of peace and war, foreign alliances, raising or coining money, and levying forces, the unanimous consent of the Provinces is requisite. It is the particular business of this Assembly, to give audience to foreign Ministers, and transact business with them; though, as I before observed, they are obliged to consult their respective States, before they determine any matter of consequence. From this
circumstance

circumstance great delay and inconvenience often ensue: yet this is a practice from which they seldom venture to depart. The Triple Alliance is mentioned by Sir William Temple as the only instance to the contrary that had occurred in his time.

If a war takes place, two Deputies of the States-General attend the army; and without their consent, neither a Stadtholder or General can give battle, or undertake any enterprize of consequence. All officers in the army are excluded from this Assembly; and it was not till the time of William IV. that an exception was made in favour of the Stadtholder. The little province of Drent, which pays one *per cent.* to the expences of the Generality, has often petitioned to have a seat in the States-General; but this request has been constantly refused. The office of Greffier, or Secretary, is a place of great trust and importance, but which does not give a vote in the Assembly.

The Council of State was instituted in the year 1584. It is composed of twelve Deputies, of whom Guelderland appoints one (*), Holland three, Zealand two, Friesland two, Overysseel one, and Groningen two. Most of these Deputies are sent for three years, but some have their places for life. They take an oath of fidelity to the States-General; each one promising to prefer the good of the Generality, to that of his particular Province. The different Members preside by turns in the Council; and all questions are determined by a majority of the Members, not, as in the States-General, by a majority of the Provinces. This Council was appointed to superintend the military and pecuniary concerns of the Republic: it was also intended
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(*) Since the late revolution, the province of Guelderland has obtained the privilege of sending another Deputy to the Council of State.

to manage other affairs, in the absence of the States-General, which Assembly it was to convene on all important occasions. This did not continue long; for when the States-General began to reside constantly at the Hague, the business of the Council of State was again confined to the departments of war and finance.

The revenue of the United Provinces arises chiefly from two articles; first, the annual quota which is paid by the Seven Provinces and the country of Drent; secondly, the revenue derived from the country of the Generality. The Council of State prepares once in every year an estimate of the current expences of that year, which is presented to the States-General; and, being approved by that body, the sum is fixed which is to be furnished by the United Provinces; and when that sum is fixed, it is paid by those Provinces in the following proportions:

If a hundred guilders is the sum to be raised,

Guelderland pays	.	.	.	5	11	2
Holland	.	.	.	57	14	8
Zealand	.	.	.	9	1	10
Utrecht	.	.	.	5	15	5
Friesland	.	.	.	11	10	11
Overysfel	.	.	.	3	10	8
Groningen	.	.	.	5	15	6
Drent	.	.	.	0	19	10
				100	0	0

The Council of State has its Treasurer, Receiver-general, and Secretary; offices of great trust, but which do not give a vote in the Council. Deputies from this body are sent, as often as is necessary, into the country of the Generality, or to attend the Army.

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The States-General, as I before observed, are the Representatives of seven Provinces, each of which is a Sovereign State. In Holland, which is the most opulent and powerful of the seven, the Sovereign Authority is placed in an Assembly which consists of Deputies sent by the following towns: Dort, Harlem, Delft, Leyden, Amsterdam, Gouda, Rotterdam, Gorcum, Schiedam, Schoonhoven, and the Brill; all these are in South Holland. The following are in North Holland: Hoorn, Enkhuysen, Edam, Monnikendam, Alkmaar, Medenblick, and Purmerend: each of these towns has a vote in the States of the Province; and their Deputies, together with those of the Nobles, compose that Assembly. This last body is represented at present by ten persons, who all together have one vote in the Assembly of the States. The number of Deputies from the towns is unlimited, but each town possesses but one vote. The States of Holland are generally assembled four times a year; but on extraordinary occasions they meet more frequently. All the affairs of the Province are under their control, except those internal concerns of particular cities, which are under the direction of their own magistrates. The Pensionary of Holland is an officer of the greatest trust and importance: his place is held only for five years; but he is seldom removed, and is always one of the Deputies of Holland, in the Assembly of the States-General: he has also a seat in the States of the Province; and there he holds a rank not much inferior to that of the Speaker of our House of Commons, except that he has no casting vote, if an equality should take place in the suffrages of the Deputies. In those times when the office of Stadtholder was laid aside, the Pensionary of Holland was generally considered as the Minister of the Republic.

When the States of Holland are not sitting, business is transacted by the Committee of Council; which is, to

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that Assembly, pretty much what the Council of State is to the States-General. This Committee consists of one Deputy from the Nobles, one from each of the chief Cities, and one from three of the smaller ones ; each of those towns appointing the Deputy in its turn. The Committee remains constantly at the Hague ; it calls extraordinary meetings of the States of the Province, whenever it is necessary ; it proposes matters for their deliberation, and it carries their decrees into execution.

Having now spoken of the government of the Province of Holland, I shall add a few words with regard to the constitution of its Capital. The city of Amsterdam is governed by a Regency, or, as it is called in Dutch, the *Raad*, which consists of thirty-six persons, whose offices are for life. Vacancies in this body were formerly filled by the election of the Burghers ; but have, a long time, been supplied by the remaining Members of the *Raad* ; so that the government of the town is really aristocratical. The sovereign authority in the city of Amsterdam is placed in this body, and its Deputies in the Provincial States are appointed by it. The Burgomasters are twelve in number, of whom four are called the Reigning Burgomasters : three of these are appointed every year, and one remains two years in office ; each one presiding for three months. The office of the Reigning Burgomaster pretty much resembles that of the Lord-Mayor of the City of London. The Schepens form the Court of Justice, and are nine in number ; of which seven are appointed annually, and two continue in office for two years. This Court determines all criminal matters without appeal ; but in civil cases of consequence there lies an appeal to the Provincial Court. It would certainly be wasting time to little purpose, if I were to speak of the subordinate courts and offices in this city, which are but little connected with the subject of my Letters : I shall, for
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the same reason, forbear to say any thing of the Bank of Amsterdam, or the great trade and opulence of this City. It is true, that like the little town of Purmerend, the Capital has but one vote in the Assembly of the States ; but it is equally true, that such a city as Amsterdam must always have very great weight and influence, not only in the affairs of the Province of Holland, but in every thing which concerns the Republic ; to the general expences of which, this town contributes more than a fourth part of the sum which is paid by the Seven Provinces.

Most of the other cities in Holland are constituted on a plan somewhat similar to Amsterdam ; and all of them are governed by a Raad, by which Deputies are sent to the Assembly of the States ; which Deputies are obliged to vote in that Assembly, according to the instructions given them by the Raad. It is to this circumstance, and to that of the Members of the Raad holding their places for life, and themselves filling vacancies in their own body, that I wish to call the attention ; for this plainly marks the government of the Republic to be aristocratical, and explains how it may come to pass, that the vote of any particular town may be given in the Assembly of the States, contrary to the sentiments of the Deputies who deliver that vote, and contrary to the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants, whose vote is thus given by the Raad. I am sensible that many persons will contradict me, when I say that the Members of the Raad hold their places for life ; I should be more accurate if I were to say, that their offices, like many places of trust in England, are held *dum bene se gesserint*. It is certain there have been instances of their being removed : sometimes, (as in cases of gross misconduct) one of the Members has been displaced by the rest of the body ; sometimes alterations have been made by the Stadtholders, in pursuance of the unanimous resolution of the Provincial States ; and sometimes, as in
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the late unhappy disturbances, the changes have been made by an armed force, which assembled tumultuously for that purpose.

With regard to the other Six Provinces, I shall attempt nothing more, than to point out the chief circumstances in which their Provincial Assemblies differ from that of Holland.

In the States of Guelderland, the Nobles have as many votes as the towns. In Utrecht (and in no other province), the Clergy, as well as the Nobility and the Burghers, are represented in the States ; but they are represented by Laymen. This is a remnant of the government which for a long time was established in that Province, when the Bishop and Chapter possessed a temporal, as well as ecclesiastical jurisdiction. In Zealand the Prince of Orange has a vote as first Noble of the Province ; and as Marquis of Vere and Flushing, he possesses considerable influence in those cities ; and of course, in the States of the Province, which consist of the votes of only six cities, together with his own. The constitution of Friesland is very different from that of any of the provinces which I have mentioned ; but, without entering into a detail of it, I shall observe, that the chief circumstance to be noticed, is, that in this province, and in those of Groningen and Overijssel, the Landholders have a considerable share in the appointment of the Deputies who form the Provincial States ; whereas, in Holland, the Magistrates of the towns have almost the whole power in their hands.

F I N I S.

